

THE CRITICAL REVIEW.

For the Month of February, 1782.

An authentic Narrative of a Voyage performed by Captain Cook and Captain Clerke, in his Majesty's Ships the Resolution and Discovery, during the Years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779 and 1780; in search of a North-West Passage between the Continents of Asia and America. Including a faithful Account of all their Discoveries, and the unfortunate Death of Captain Cook. Illustrated with a Chart and a Variety of Cuts. By W. Ellis, Assistant Surgeon to both Vessels. 2 vols. 8vo. 12s. boards. Robinson.

TO discover a north-west passage between the continents of Asia and America, has long been an object of research among enterprising navigators: but, unfortunately, every attempt for that purpose has hitherto been frustrated; and a problem, which speculation had suggested, is at last determined to be impracticable. Such attempts, however ineffectual, and often fatal to those by whom they were undertaken, have enlarged our acquaintance with the arctic regions; and though they have failed to expedite the commercial intercourse of distant nations, they have contributed not a little to gratify the curiosity of mankind. The work now before us is of a nature which rouses expectation; and we shall, therefore, give a general detail of the narrative.

The two vessels employed in this voyage were the Resolution and the Discovery; the former of which sailed first, but was, in a short time, followed by the latter. On the 1st of December, 1776, both vessels sailed from the Cape of Good Hope, and steered a S. S. E. and S. E. course; it being cap-

tain Cook's intention to ascertain the reality of some land to the southward, which was said to be discovered by Monsieur Kerguelen, and which captain Cook had in vain sought for in his last voyage. But the French charts being incorrect, the Resolution passed over, in her track, the very spot where the land was said to exist.

The voyagers, in their progress southward, gradually found great alteration in the weather, which became very cold, with thick fogs, rain, and strong gales of wind. On the 16th they descried land, which, upon a nearer view, proved to be two small islands, affording at a distance a rocky, barren, and dreary prospect, and almost surrounded with fogs: the more lofty parts were covered with snow. Upon a nearer view, they saw a few trees, thinly scattered on the low ground. These islands, called Prince Edward's Isles, with three or four others farther to the eastward, were first discovered by M. Marion in 1774 and 1775. The eastern one lies in lat. 46 deg. 35 min. south, and long. 37 deg. 51 min. east; the western one 46 deg. 54 min. south lat. and 37 deg. 39 min. east longitude. The voyagers passed between them, continuing their course, and on the 24th again saw land, which proved to be what they were in quest of. Here the ships anchored in a small bay, about half a mile from the shore. The rocks were almost covered with penguins; and numbers of shags flew round the mariners. Seals, and sea-bears, were in great plenty, and the captain, therefore, supplied the ships with blubber at this place. From this island, the voyagers brought off a load or two of long coarse grass, for their stock. Soon after, all the animals which had eaten of it began to discover symptoms of pain; became tense and swelled, and several of them died. On enquiring into the cause of this sickness, it was found that the grass had been cut upon a spot where a great number of penguins had been sitting, and that a considerable quantity of their dung had been included in it. This island affords not a single shrub; and is covered in some few spots only with moss, and four or five species of plants, among which is one resembling a cabbage. Captain Cook named this place the Island of Desolation.

The voyagers proceeded thence to Van-Diemen's Land, where they met with no good water, but caught plenty of fish. Of the natives of this country, the author gives the following account.

‘ Their colour was dark brown: their hair (which was short and woolly) and beard were formed into small distinct lumps, with a mixture of reddish brown earth, and some kind of liquid, which appeared to be of an oily nature; this mode of dressing their

their hair gave them an uncommon appearance. The man who seemed to be the principal among them, had his face entirely painted with this composition. Their teeth were in general bad, their noses flat, lips thick, foreheads low, but their eyes were dark brown and lively. Their arms and breasts were marked with lines running in various directions, but totally different from any we had ever seen before, the flesh being elevated or raised up as it were in little ridges. Round the necks of some of them was a kind of cord, about the thickness of our whip-cord, very strong, and twisted in the same manner as our's, consisting of three smaller cords. They were rather averse to parting with these. Their women were very plain; their heads shaved quite close, except a very narrow circle of hair, which quite surrounded it. Some of them had the skin of some animal thrown over the shoulders and fastened before, which seemed to be merely for the convenience of carrying their children, two or three of which they had with them. Those who had no children, were without this, or any other covering. They readily accepted of every thing that was offered them, but set no particular value upon any thing. Their language was entirely new to us, and they seemed to speak very fast. When any thing pleased them, they always expressed their satisfaction by a shout.

The voyagers next arrive at New Zealand, where they brewed a kind of beer, from a tree which bore some resemblance to the spruce fir; the good effects of which they had experienced in their former voyage. The party that went ashore for the purpose of procuring oil, was constantly attended by many of the natives, who received, with great thankfulness, the scum and pieces of blubber, which remained after boiling.

The navigators afterwards pass through Cook's Straits, and discover an island, on which they are not able to land. They are seen, however, by the natives, some of whom visit them in a canoe; and the king of the island sends captain Cook a pig and some cocoa-nuts. Some of the voyagers going on shore in their boats, Omai here finds five of his countrymen. The natives of this island, both men and women, were clothed much in the Otaheitee manner; they were armed with spears and clubs, the latter of which were curiously carved.

From this place, captain Cook proceeds to the Friendly Isles, by way of Palmerston's Isle, of which our author gives a particular description. The island is inhabited by numerous flocks of birds; and the reef affords excellent fish, particularly large eels.

At Happi, the voyagers were entertained by the natives with boxing and wrestling matches, and variety of dances both by men and women.

‘ They exceeded, says the author, every thing of the kind that was ever seen before. An idea cannot be conveyed by words, for their attitudes were so various and different from any other dances, and at the same time so regular and exact, that the whole company, which consisted of thirty or forty people, seemed to be actuated by one soul.’

We afterwards meet with a particular account of the Friendly Isles, and their inhabitants; for which we refer our readers to the work.

On leaving the Friendly Islands, the voyagers continue their course to Otaheitee, and anchor in Ohitapeah harbour, where they receive intelligence of the island having been visited by the Spaniards, who afterwards return to it from Lima.

Of this country, and the behaviour of the Spaniards, we shall present our readers with Mr. Ellis's narrative.

‘ The face of the country here exhibits a very different appearance from that of the Friendly Isles. Mountains and vallies, hills and dales, and in short every thing conspire to form the most romantic views imaginable; while at Amsterdam, &c. you had only one continued tract of low level land. At a little distance from the ships was a remarkably pleasant valley, which ran winding between the mountains to a great distance; in the midst of it is a fine stream of water, which at the head of the valley takes its rise from a beautiful cascade that appears to burst out of the rocks.

‘ On each side the stream are placed the houses of the natives, interspersed with plantations of bananas, coco nuts, bread-fruit, and a kind of apple-tree: the lofty hills on each side, whose tops reach beyond the clouds, the variety of birds which are continually flying from place to place, and the noise of the falling water, re-echoed by the surrounding hills, afford a scene striking beyond description.

‘ Ohitapeah is the principal place of Otaheitee-etc, being the residence of the king and most of the principal people. The present king is a minor, and son to the late Wyeatuah; he is about ten years old, and is a fine lively sensible boy.

‘ The morai of the late king stands upon the banks of a rivulet not far from the Spanish house; it is very neatly fenced in with bamboo, and the corpse is placed upon a kind of bier, and wrapped up in a great quantity of cloth, over which are spread several pieces of scarlet woollen cloth, which had been given him by the Spaniards. His house is at a little distance from the morai, but almost tumbled to pieces; for these people never repair or live in the house of any one that is dead; that and every thing belonging to it being raa, as they call it; which word has nearly the same meaning as taboo at the Friendly Isles, and means unlawful or forbid. This word is used on many occasions;

sions; for instance, if you ask any of the women to eat while the men are present, they will shake their heads, and say it is *maa. raa*, or meat which they are forbid to eat.

‘ These good people, notwithstanding they supplied us very largely with every produce of the place, yet in several respects had lost that degree of cordiality for us, which was experienced in the course of the former voyage. This we had great reason to attribute to the insinuations and malpractices of the Spaniards, who (if the natives are to be relied on) took every method to lessen that friendship and good opinion, which they saw these people entertained of us, by representing us as a set of idle, piratical people, who lived entirely by plunder; that we had no place of abode, but were obliged to cruize about from place to place to procure a living, with many other circumstances equally false and unjust.

‘ The behaviour of the Spaniards during their stay was truly characteristic; scarce any of the natives were permitted to enter the great cabin, and not a woman was suffered to come on board; the commander never went on shore, without a guard to receive him, which with the advantage they had over us in fine scarlet cloths (for the people of Otaheitee, like most others, are fond of shew), and the great state they always assumed, absolutely got the better of our poor friends, and they looked upon them almost as a superior race of beings.

‘ However, we in some measure overcame their prejudices against us, and by dealing out our presents (particularly red feathers) in a judicious manner, they readily confessed we were more valuable *taios* than the *dons*.

We are informed that Omai, on his return to his own country, found his sister married. She received him very affectionately; but her husband, who was quite of the inferior sort of people, would not, at first, condescend to speak to him. On finding, however, that Omai was possessed of many valuables, he entirely changed his behaviour. Captain Cook wished to have settled Omai at this place; but the latter declared, that he would remain no where but at Huaheine. His reason for fixing upon this island was, that its situation was convenient for him to chastise the insolence of the Bora-boramen, for whom he had the most inveterate hatred.

‘ Omai, says Mr. Ellis, had been very lavish of his things at Ohitapeah, and he also distributed them here in a manner that a good deal displeased captain Cook, who often advised him to be more frugal, but without effect. The people at this place did not appear much to like him, and frequently turned up their noses at him as he passed along: but at length Tohaw (the lord high admiral, as we used to call him), who was a man of a fine generous spirit, took a great deal of notice of him, gave him two or three servants, and was very desirous of his living with him, but Omai would not listen to reason.’

Among the particulars related of Otaheitee, we learn that queen Oberea is dead ; that the natives are engaged in a war with the inhabitants of Imaio ; and that, on this occasion, they offered a human sacrifice to the god of war. The ceremony of this horrible transaction is thus related by Mr. Ellis.

‘ On the evening of the 1st of September, Tohaw offered a human sacrifice to their god of war, whom they call Oro. These kinds of religious rites we find are customary things amongst them upon any particular occasion. The persons sacrificed is always one of the lowest and most useless person they can find : he is totally ignorant of the affair, till the persons who are sent to dispatch him arrive, when they knock him on the head without any hesitation. The body is then conveyed to the place of sacrifice with great form and ceremony. This place seems to be set apart entirely for religious affairs of this nature : on one side was a house for the residence of the priests, at some distance from which was a large piece of board elevated upon two posts rudely carved, upon which were placed several dogs and hogs that probably were killed upon this occasion. Near this was a kind of flat shed raised upon four posts, and decorated all round near the top with garlands made of particular kinds of trees, such as the emotoo, awa, and etee, and upon its top several bunches of plantains and coco nuts were placed. On one side was a kind of altar formed of stone, and raised about two feet from the surface of the ground, upon various parts of which were fixed those rude kind of carvings that are usually to be distinguished near morais, and in the midst of these were a number of human skulls, which belonged to those who had formerly been sacrificed. Near the house were two large drums, upon which two men were almost continually drumming during the ceremony. The priest takes out one of the eyes, which he offers to the god, at the same time making a long prayer, imploring his protection during the war, and begging that victory may crown their arms, after which the body is interred.’

Our author, in the following passage, farther confirms the accounts formerly delivered of the society of the arecois.

‘ The society of the arecois is esteemed the most polite establishment in these islands ; the members of which are always people of rank and fortune, and are distinguished by being tattooed in a peculiar manner, particularly those who are natives of Borabora.

‘ It will here be necessary to observe, what it is that first constitutes a member, and some of the rights and privileges annexed to this society. It is in consequence of a most cruel and inhuman action : a man must connect himself with a girl, and the first child he has by her, must be strangled the instant it is born. At the next meeting they must bring witnesses to prove this horrid deed, after which they are admitted as members.

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‘ They generally go in companies of ten or twelve sail of canoes, and let them direct their course to whatever island they please, they are always certain of being well received; nay, if they have even been at war but a few days before the visit, all animosity is laid aside, and they are as perfect friends as if nothing had happened.

‘ One of their privileges is to keep two, three, or more women at once, who however must be members. They always wear the best cloth the islands produce, and eat many peculiar things, which others, even if arees, are not permitted to do. They are generally distinguished for their prowess, valour, and activity in battle; and if any of them shew the least signs of cowardice, he is excluded the society; which is esteemed such a disgrace, that from that time he loses all his consequence, and nobody will associate with or speak to him. Their amusements during these meetings consist of boxing, wrestling, dancing, and making feasts and entertainments, at which crowds of female spectators attend, the fairest of whom are always made choice of by the conquerors. In general, they continue in this society to the age of thirty or thirty-five, when by suffering one of their children to survive, they debar themselves of the privileges of an arooi. Many remain members all their lives, and die in a most emaciated state, occasioned by their very debauched way of living.’

Quitting the Society Isles, the voyagers proceed northward; and directing their course by the Sandwich Isles, of which an account is given, they trace the north-west coast of America, and anchor in King George's Sound. Mr. Ellis gives us a description of this place, with its produce, animals, and inhabitants; their temper, dress, houses, food, cookery, manufactures, canoes, fishing-tackle, weapons, and language.

On departing from King George's Sound, the navigators continue to trace the coast, and discover Sandwich Sound, where they also cast anchor, and meet with some of the natives. The places they next visit are the river Turn-again, Providence bay, the island of Unalashka. Directing their course to the American shore, they fall in with ice, and meet with great numbers of sea-horses, many of which they kill, for provisions and blubber. Concerning those animals, we are informed, that the old are remarkably careful of their young, which they will defend to the utmost; and that, upon the least appearance of danger, they embrace them with their fore feet, and plunge them into the water. The old ones would not quit the boats until they were destroyed; and were once very near flaying the Discovery's small cutter with their enormous teeth.

In tracing the ice, the voyagers discover the Asiatic continent, along which they continue to range, until they again

arrive at the Tschutschki Nofs; when, leaving the continent of Asia, they once more direct their course for that of America.

We are next presented with a detail of transactions at Norton Sound; departing whence, the voyagers continue to trace the coast, till their progress is stopped by the shoalness of the water. At length, they arrive at Unalafschka, in about 54 degrees north latitude. We then meet with transactions and occurrences in the harbour of Samganoodha; a description of the island, its produce, inhabitants, their dress, houses, &c.

After this circumstantial account, Mr. Ellis relates the transactions and occurrences, until their first making Mow-wee, one of the Sandwich Isles; with transactions and occurrences until their anchoring in Karacakooah bay, in the island of O'why'hee, in about 19 degrees north latitude. We cannot omit extracting, for the information of our readers, the account which is given of this extremely remote island.

' The next morning, several gentlemen of both ships made an excursion into the country; another party had been sent the day before by captain Cook, with directions to make what observations they could relative to the soil and produce of the place. On Saturday evening both parties returned, and the latter made their report to the captain. After ascending part of the hill, which was covered in every direction with plantations of sugar-cane, sweet potatoes, tarrow, plantains, and bread-fruit trees (which were by far the largest they had seen), they arrived at a spot of land entirely uncultivated, and over-run with long grass and ferns. At some distance from this were four or five small huts, the habitations of a few poor people, whose business appeared to be, to cultivate several plantations of tarrow, that probably belonged to some of the arees or principal people. They had nothing to dispose of, but two small fowls, a few roots of tarrow, and a small quantity of poey as they called it, which was a kind of pudding made of potatoes, mashed up with water, and constitutes the principal part of the food of the lower class of people. The soil in this part was light, and of a different kind to that below. Having purchased the fowls and tarrow, they left the huts and proceeded to the wood (which was about two miles distant), through a considerable tract of waste ground, entirely over-run with long grass, ferns, and the *dracæna terminalis*; the foot-path was sometimes pretty good, but in general stoney, though not in so great a degree as the lower parts: these stones were evidently the production of a volcano. On entering the wood, they were entertained with the notes of a variety of birds, which rendered their walk doubly pleasing; and having several boys with them, who professed the art of bird-catching, they were set to work, and in a short time procured

cured several. They use a kind of bird-lime for this purpose, and are besides very expert in imitating the different notes of birds.

As they proceeded, they arrived at a long tract of wild plain-tain-trees, which far exceed the cultivated ones in size; they produce fruit like them, but it never arrives at perfection. The path now became very dirty and slippery, the soil being a stiff yellow clay, interspersed with large stones. They saw a variety of trees, one species of which was very tall and large, and its leaves greatly resembled those of the spice-trees of Van-diemen's land; this is the wood of which the natives make their canoes.

Some time after they arrived at some huts or rather sheds belonging to those who had been building, or rather forming canoes; at a little distance lay the remains of a large tree, which they had been at work upon. It was proposed that they should dine here, and the fowls and tarrow being produced, the men made a fire, and the huts (though so small and ruinous) being furnished with an oven, every thing was ready in a short time. They at first intended spending the night there, but not being furnished with sufficient clothing, and the Indians telling them what cold they would experience, it was agreed to repair to the huts they had left in the morning, and there take up their lodging. Having after dinner pursued their former path, as far as it was practicable, they turned back, and in the evening arrived at their place of destination. In the course of the night they found it very cool, though in the day it was hot to a degree, and the numbers of rats that were perpetually running over them, prevented their sleeping too much.

In the morning, having breakfasted upon some roasted tarrow, they walked down the hill to the westward, to procure something more substantial for dinner; and in the space of half an hour arrived at some houses most delightfully situated, amidst a number of bread-fruit and plantain trees, and having purchased two small hogs and some bread-fruit, set off for their last night's habitation, and in their way put up several flocks of black and white plover, that were feeding in the plantations. Having left their provision to the care of the two natives they had brought with them, they proceeded in a N. W. direction, with an intent to penetrate through the wood, which at the distance they then were, appeared very thin; but upon their approach they found it considerably more over-run with underwood and ferns than that to the northward, and forming several deep vallies, which effectually stopped their progress in that direction. They tried in several other places, but meeting with the same obstructions, were obliged to give up the point. The next morning was fixed upon for their return to the ships; but they took a different route to their former one, proceeding nearly in a W. N. W. direction, through innumerable plantations of the paper mulberry-tree, bread-fruit, and plantain trees, which formed an

extensive garden, and rendered the houses which were situated there delightfully pleasant. In the course of their walk, they observed several morais or burying places, very different from any they had seen before, and which the shortness of their time, to their great regret, would not permit them to examine. Having arrived near the summit of the hill, or rock which forms the N. W. part of the bay, stones, and cinders became very predominant, not the least soil being visible; and here and there a solitary house was placed, which rendered the scene still more melancholy, and afforded a striking contrast to the former part of their walk. At some distance from this, they observed nothing but a dreary tract of cinders and stones, and at the termination of the hill, this volcanic confusion became much more striking, there being caverns of various sizes forced open by the heat of the fire, at the bottoms of which the lava at first sight appeared even almost in a fluid state. Having descended this hill with some difficulty, they were met at the bottom by great numbers of the natives, who crowded round them so as almost to prevent their moving; at length however they got to the beach, and having hired a canoe, arrived on board.

This island will be rendered memorable by the death of the brave captain Cook, who unfortunately fell a victim to his own intrepidity, in resenting some thefts which had been committed by the uncivilized inhabitants. The following is the account of this melancholy accident.

‘ The next morning (February 14), at day light, the *Discovery's* large cutter, which had been secured to the buoy, was missing; these audacious rogues having contrived to carry it off in the course of the night, without being perceived. This was a theft which could not be overlooked on any account, as the loss of so capital a boat might prove of great consequence to us in the remaining part of the voyage. Captain Clerke waited upon captain Cook and informed him of what had happened. After some deliberation, the best method that could be thought of, (a method which, in other islands, had often been tried, and always met with success) was to secure the king; and the only way to do this was to invite him on board, and then place sentries over him, after which we could make our own terms with them. It was also thought adviseable to send boats to different parts of the bay, to prevent any of the natives from making their escape in their canoes. Things being thus far settled, the *Resolution's* great and small cutter, attended by the *Discovery's* small cutter and jolly boat, all well manned and armed, were dispatched to the various parts of the bay, with orders to stop all canoes that should attempt to make their escape, and if they proved refractory, to fire at and kill some of them, as captain Cook was determined to let them see he was not to be trifled with any longer. In the interim, the captain, with the lieutenant of marines, went in his pinnace, attended by the launch

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(in which were the marines and some of the officers, all well armed), to the N. W. point of the bay, where the king resided. The natives, suspecting possibly that some enquiry would be made relative to the boat, had assembled there in greater numbers than usual. Upon landing, the marines were drawn up in a line upon the beach, with the serjeant at their head, and captain Cook, with Mr. Philips, proceeded to the king's house; but not finding him there, enquired of the natives where he was, who told them he was at a house not far distant. They walked on, and found him, and, after some tittle time, the captain invited him to go on board, which he very readily was going to do, but some women, and others of his attendants, who probably were apprehensive of some design, earnestly begged and intreated that he would not. Almost at this instant, three Indians in a canoe arrived from the other side of the bay, with an account of one of their principal arees being shot by our people. They had been to both ships, where they told their story in very lamentable terms; but not meeting with that pity and redress which they probably thought they had a right to expect, they proceeded to the shore, where their tale was received in a very different manner. A general murmur of discontent was heard to prevail, and many of them began to arm themselves with spears and daggers. This circumstance was observed by Mr. Philips, and he communicated his apprehensions to captain Cook, who was at this time in the midst of a crowd, and of course was not able to watch their motions. The serjeant of marines also, who was at some distance, saw them arming; and, as the tumult rather increased, called several times to the captain to warn him of his danger; but there seemed to be a degree of infatuation attending him, which rendered him deaf to every thing! The mob now pressed upon him, and he was seen to push them back, exclaiming, at the same time, "get away—get away." At length one of them behaved very insolently, and threw stones at him: the captain, having his double-barrelled gun, fired, but missed him, and shot the next man to him. The marines, hearing the report of the gun, imagined that some mischief had been done, and, without orders, began to fire also: this rendered matters still worse; and captain Cook, now seeing his danger, was making to the boats as fast as the crowd would permit him, but received a stab between his shoulders from a chief who was behind him; the man was going to repeat his blow, but was shot by the serjeant of marines. The marines had no sooner fired, than the people in the launch, from the same reason, fired likewise, and now the uproar became general: the captain did not fall in consequence of his wound, but still pressed towards the boats; the Indians, however, rushed upon him, and, with clubs and stones, soon put a period to his existence.

After quitting this fatal spot, the voyagers arrive at O'wha'ow, an island situated between 21 and 22 degrees north latitude; where finding no convenient watering place, they proceed to the

the island of A'tou'wi. Here ensue some transactions, after which, the English vessels depart thence, and sail for O'neehow, distinguished also by some occurrences. In this part of the narrative, is a full account of Sandwich Isles, their situation, produce, inhabitants, and dress; to which is subjoined a comparative view of the dresses, houses, and furniture, of the various nations seen in the course of the voyage. This entertaining contrast not only marks the accuracy, but gives additional force to the descriptions with which the narrative abounds.

Leaving the Sandwich Isles, the voyagers shape their course for Kamtschatka; in which province, at the bay of Awatschka, they in a short time arrive. In this bay, the Discovery was in some places covered near an inch deep, with the ashes thrown out by the eruption of a neighbouring volcano.

Mr. Ellis next gives a description of the town of St. Peter and Paul in Kamtschatka, with a variety of particulars relative to the inhabitants and the state of that country; besides a number of transactions and occurrences, among which is the death likewise of captain Clerke, an officer who conducted the voyage with courage and abilities, worthy the successor of the lamented captain Cook.

Soon after the funeral of captain Clerke, the voyagers quitted Kamtschatka, and tracing the Asiatic coast, pursue their course for China; where, after passing several islands, they at length arrive. Having stayed here little more than a month, the voyagers proceeded on their return to England; where, on the 5th of October, 1780, they anchored at the Nore; and the day following moored alongside the hulk, after an absence of four years, and near three months.

Thus have we given our readers an abstract of this celebrated voyage, which excited in so great a degree the public expectation. Whether we consider it in regard to the discoveries which the voyagers have made, or with respect to the decisive experiment, of the impracticability of a north-west passage, it is equally interesting; and will, to the honour of the British nation, remain a perpetual memorial of the intrepidity and zeal, with which her navigators prosecuted a discovery, attended with such variety of danger, and so important to geographical knowledge. The narrative, at the same time that it is indisputably authentic, bears every mark of accuracy; and may justly vye, in point of information, with any production of the kind. To which we may add, as a circumstance suitable to its merit, that the work is ornamented with a number of beautiful engravings.

Propertii Μονοβιβλος; or, that Book of the Elegies of Propertius, entitled Cynthia; translated into English Verse: with classical Notes. Small 8vo. 2s. 6d. H. Payne.

PROPERTIUS, considered as a writer of the Augustan age, patronised by Mæcenas, and cotemporary with Homer and Virgil, makes but an inconsiderable figure amongst the authors of that distinguished period. He is not, however, without some degree of merit as an elegiac poet, though the reputation which he had acquired must have been obscured, if not totally eclipsed by the great Naso, who trod in the same path, and was infinitely his superior. It is, notwithstanding, as the author of this version has observed in his preface, rather to be wondered at, that a translation of his works has never yet been attempted in English: he ventures, therefore, to offer to the world the *Monobiblos*, or first book of the elegies; and promises, should the public smile on his attempt, a complete translation of the whole.

After all that can be said in favour of Propertius, the principal, if not the sole merit, of his poems, will, in our opinion, be found, on a candid and impartial examination, to consist in that harmony of numbers, and agreeable metre, for which the Latin tongue seems so peculiarly adapted; and which it is, at the same time, so difficult to transfuse into any other.—The mere sentiments of this author, stripped of their splendid cloathing, have little claim to admiration; the task of a translator must therefore be a very difficult one, as, if he is not possessed of great poetical powers, he must fail in the execution. This will probably be the fate of the anonymous author of the work now before us; for though this translation is, in most parts, faithful, it is in very few, pleasing, elegant, or harmonious. But that our readers, both learned and unlearned, may be able to form a competent judgment of the original, and of the copy, we will present them with a few quotations from both.

The second Elegy of Propertius, wherein he condemns his mistress for being too fond of dress, runs thus:

‘ Quid juvat ornato procedere, vita, capillo,
Et tenues Coâ veste movere sinus?
Aut quid Orontea crines perfundere myrrha,
Teque peregrinis vendere muneribus?
Naturaëque decus mercato perdere cultu?
Nec finire in propriis membra nitere bonis?
Crede mihi, non ulla tuæ medicina figuræ est.
Nudus Amor formæ non amat artificem.
Adspice, quot summittat humus formosa colores,
Ut veniant pederæ sponte suâ melius;

Surgat & in solis formosius arbutus antris,
 Et sciat indociles currere lymp̄ha vias :
 Litora nativos perlucēt picta lapillos,
 Et volucres nullā dulciūs arte canant.
 Non sic Leucippis succendit Castora Phœbe,
 Pollucem cultu non Hilaira soror:
 Non Idæ, et cupido quondam discordia Phœbo
 Eveni patriis filia litoribus.
 Nec Phrygium falso traxit candore maritum
 Avecta externis Hippodamia rotis :
 Sed facies aderat nullis obnoxia gemmis,
 Qualis Apelleis est color in tabulis.
 Non illis studium vulgo conquirere amantes.
 Illis ampla satis forma, pudicitia.
 Non ego nunc vereor, ne sis mihi vilior istis.
 Uni si qua placet, culta puella sat est :
 Quum tibi præsertim Phœbus sua carmina donet,
 Aoniâque libens Calliopea lyram :
 Unica nec defit jucundis gratia verbis,
 Omnia quæque Venus. quæque Minerva probat,
 His tu semper eris nostræ gratissima vitæ,
 Tædia dum miseræ sint tibi luxuriæ.

In this Elegy (with all due deference to antiquity) we cannot find any extraordinary poetical merit, nor any great share of wit, pathos, or sensibility : many of the expressions seem even harsh and inelegant ; such as—*propriis nitere bonis*—*ampla satis forma*—*miseræ luxuriæ*—*obnoxia gemmis*, and two or three others. But not to dwell on the real or apparent faults of Propertius, let us see what appearance he makes in his English dress, and whether the copy has improved on, or falls beneath the original.

' Why to walk forth, sweet life, thy tresses braid ?
 Why in the Coan garb's thin folds array'd ?
 Why with Orontes' myrrh thy locks imbue ?
 Thy beauty's price enhance by foreign show ?
 Why Nature's charms with purchas'd lustre hide,
 Nor let thy limbs disclose their genuine pride ?
 Trust me thy face wants no cosmetick's aid ;
 Love's naked god abhors the *dressing trade* :
 O, mark what blooms the painted earth displays.
 How of themselves best climb the ivy-sprays,
 How in lone caves arbutus lovelier grows,
 Thro' untaught channels how the streamlet flows,
 How native gems deckt shores spontaneous yield,
 And sweeter notes by untam'd birds are trill'd !
 ' Leucippus' daughter, beauteous Phœbe, fir'd
 Young Castor's bosom, with no *gaudes* attir'd ;
 And her fair sister Hilaira too,
 As unadorn'd, delighted Pollux' view.

No ostentatious ornaments could boast
 Evenus' offspring, on her native coast;
 When once the nymph the cause of discord prov'd
 'Twixt Idas, and the god who fondly lov'd.
 Nor Hippodamia, when the stranger's car
 In triumph bore away the virgin fair,
 By beauties borrow'd from the stores of art,
 Subdu'd to love her Phrygian husband's heart;
 No jewels heighten'd her bright face, that show'd
 Such tints as in Apelles' pictures glow'd.
 These heroines strove not various loves to win,
 Enough for them by chastity to shine;
 Yet sure in virtue thou canst vie with these;
 She wants no charms, who can one lover please.

' Since thine is all that Phœbus can inspire,
 Thine fond Calliope's Aonian lyre,
 Thine the choice gift of pleasing speech, my fair,
 Thine all that's beauty's, all that's wisdom's care;
 'Tis surely thine to gild my life with joy,
 But ne'er let odious pomp thy thoughts employ !'

Formæ artificem is here very badly rendered by what our translator calls the *dressing trade*, an expression that carries with it a low and vulgar idea; *indociles vias* may be classical, but *untaught channels* is, we are afraid, scarce warrantable in an English writer.

' And sweeter notes by untam'd birds are *trill'd* !' is extremely stiff, dissonant, and inharmonious.

The lady whom Propertius calls Hippodamia, his translator, we may observe, takes the liberty to change into Hippodamia, and tells us that

' No jewels *heighten'd* her bright face?—

To *heighten* a form or stature by enormous caps and shoes, is a common practice amongst modern beauties; but to *heighten the face*, is a strange mode, and rather unintelligible.

' These heroines strove not various loves to *win*,
 Enough for them by chastity to *shine*.'

These verses, exclusive of the bad rhyme, are very indifferent; to *win loves*, and *shine by chastity*, are ungraceful and unpoetical expressions.

In the sixteenth Elegy, a lover thus addresses his mistress's door:

' O door, more cruel than thy mistress, why
 Do thy mute valves, unkind, access deny?
 Wilt thou ne'er open to my am'rous woe;
 Or, kindly mov'd, report each secret vow?

Shall

Shall nought at length my ceaseless sorrows charm?
 Shall my rude slumbers still thy threshold warm?
 E'en wailing stars, e'en midnight's hallow'd reign,
 And the chill breath of morn regard my pain;
 Thou, only thou! untouch'd by human grief,
 On silent hinges hung deniest relief:
 O, much I wish, some pervious cleft could bear
 My murmur'd accents to her wond'ring ear!
 As *Ætna's* rocks unfeeling were the fair,
 Let her with iron, or with steel compare;
 Yet sure soft pity would bedew her eyes,
 And midst her tears she'd heave unbidden sighs;
 While some lov'd youth now folds her with delight,
 Pour'd is my moan on the vain blast of night:
 O door! thou sole chief cause of all my woe,
 Not brib'd by all the off'rings I bestow,
 Thee with rude phrase my tongue did ne'er ill-treat,
 Such phrase as youths, when vex'd, to doors, repeat:
 That I, grown hoarse with frequent wail, should meet
 Such long neglect, and nightly range the street!
 Oft in choice verse for thee I fram'd the song,
 And to thy steps my warmest kisses clung;
 Turn'd to thy frame, vile thing! how oft I've stood,
 And paid with secret hand each vow I ow'd.

What a ridiculous parade is here about a door's *mute valves* hung on *silent hinges*, with *rude slumbers* warming a *threshold*, pouring moans on the *blast* of night!—We should be glad to know what is meant by the *blast* of night!—If this be not the language of genius, of nature, or of love, it is, as we are informed in one of the lines,

‘Such phrase as youths, when vex’d, to doors repeat.’

If it be so, we can only say, to *doors*, and not to *us*, we would with them always to be repeated.—We need not go back to ancient writers for such *Elegies* as these, having certainly much better of our own. The truth indeed is, that scarce any parts of Propertius are worth translating, and such as are may easily find a better versifier than the author of this translation, which, in many places, is extremely dull, heavy, and prosaic; add to this, that the poet must have a very bad ear who can produce such rhymes as *woe* and *vow*, *decide* and *fled*, &c. &c.

The best part of this work is the explanatory notes subjoined to the text, which prove that the author has carefully studied his original.

An Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope. Volume the Second and last. 8vo. 6s. Boards. Doddsley.

THIS work has long been expected, and even called for, by the public. The first volume was published in 1756, soon after the commencement of our Review*; and we took an opportunity of making some observations upon it, when we gave an account of Mr. Ruffhead's Life of Pope†. The professed design of this author is to enquire, in what rank of our poets Pope deserves to be placed, from a view of all his poems as they were arranged and published in Warburton's edition; and at the same time to make digressions into other collateral subjects of criticism, that may easily and naturally arise in the course of such an enquiry. Various observations and remarks having been made, in the first volume of this Essay, on the Pastorals, the Windsor-Forest, the Odes, the Essay on Criticism, the Rape of the Lock, and the Elegy on an Unfortunate Lady; this volume opens with the seventh section, on the Temple of Fame, a Vision, imitated from Chaucer: which gives our author an occasion to speak of the great merits of this venerable father of English poetry, in polishing and improving our language, by the imitations of Petrarch and Boccace; and to introduce a curious anecdote, which we do not remember to have met with before, concerning the jealousy Petrarch entertained of his predecessor Dante. Twenty-three remarks are made on particular passages of this Vision in the order in which they occur; and our author says he has made it a rule, not to censure or commend any, without a reason assigned. The remarks that appear to us the most interesting, are those which our author has made on Pope's omitting to give a place in his Temple to the three great Greek tragedians; on the count de Caylus's Treatise on Subjects proper for History-painting, from Homer; on the real Character of Pindar; on the Dramatic Parts of Horace's Odes; on the Strokes of Pleasantry and Humour that seem improperly introduced in this poem; and, lastly, on the judicious manner in which Pope has ended it.

The next section, which is the eighth, contains various critical remarks on the story of January and May, and the Wife of Bath, from Chaucer; on Translations of Statius and Ovid; and on Imitations of Seven English Poets.—It opens with the following uncommon observation: that the writers of the old romances, tales of chivalry, and wild

* See Crit. Rev. vol. i. p. 226.

† Ibid. vol. xxvii. p. 280.

adventures, are supposed to have possessed most fruitful and copious imaginations, and to have been the first framers and creators of their marvellous tales; but may they not be indebted for their invulnerable heroes, their monsters, their enchantments, their gardens of pleasure, their winged steeds, and the like, to the Echidna, to the Circe, to the Medea, to the Achilles, to the Syrens, to the Harpies, to the Phryxus, and the Bellerophon of the ancients? The cave of Polypheme might furnish the ideas of their giants; and Andromeda might give occasion for stories of distressed damsels, on the point of being devoured by dragons, and delivered at such a critical season by their favourite knights. The wildest chimeras in those books of chivalry with which Don Quixote's library was furnished, may, perhaps, be found to have a close connexion with ancient mythology.—Dryden having versified the tale, to which this piece of Pope is the prologue, that circumstance has given our author an opportunity of speaking of the great poetical merits of this harmonious writer's fables; particularly, the story of Palamon and Arcite, taken originally from Boccace; Sigismonda and Guiscardo, Theodore and Honoria: from each of which striking passages are selected, because our author is justly of opinion, that *general* and *unexemplified* criticism, is always useless and absurd. We were pleased with his dwelling upon these pieces of Dryden: Dr. Johnson, in his *Lives*, has spoken little, and but slightly, of them.—We cannot forbear adding a curious anecdote given by the author, of the manner in which the celebrated music-ode was written.

• Mr. St. John, afterwards lord Bolingbroke, happening to pay a morning visit to Dryden, whom he always respected, found him in an unusual agitation of spirits, even to a trembling. On enquiring the cause, “I have been up all night,” replied the old bard, “my musical friends made me promise to write them an ode for their feast of St. Cæcilia: I have been so struck with the subject which occurred to me, that I could not leave it till I had completed it; here it is, finished at one sitting.” And immediately he shewed him this ode, which places the British lyric poetry above that of any other nation. This anecdote, as true as it is curious, was imparted by lord Bolingbroke to Pope, by Pope to Mr. Gilbert West, by him to the ingenious friend who communicated it to me. The rapidity, and yet the perspicuity of the thoughts, the glow and the expressiveness of the images, those certain marks of the first sketch of a master, conspire to corroborate the truth of the fact.

After passing some censures on the forced conceits, the violent metaphors, the gigantic and outrageous images of Statius,

thus, and the puerile ornaments and affected turns of Ovid, some passages of both which writers Pope translated in his youth, this section presents us with another curious anecdote taken from Voltaire; who affirms, that the famous Tale of a Tub, is an exact imitation of the old story of the Three Invisible Rings, which a father bequeathed to his three children; or rather, an imitation of the History of Mero and Enegu, by Fontanelle, inserted by Bayle in his *Nouvelles*, &c. vol. v. p. 88; *Mero* was the anagram of *Rome*, and *Enegu* of *Geneva*. Thus, saith Voltaire, all is imitation. The idea of the Persian Letters is taken from the Turkish Spy: Boiardo has imitated Pulci, Ariosto has imitated Boiardo. The genuises, apparently the most original, borrowed from each other.

The whole of the ninth section is devoted to the Essay on Man, as being one of the most laboured and important of Pope's productions. We shall give the critic's account of it in his own words.

‘ If it be a true observation, that for a poet to write happily and well, he must have seen and felt what he describes, and must draw from living models alone; and if modern times, from their luxury and refinement, afford not manners that will bear to be described; it will then follow, that those species of poetry bid fairest to succeed at present, which treat of things, not men; which deliver doctrines, not display events. Of this sort is didactic and descriptive poetry. Accordingly the moderns have produced many excellent pieces of this kind. We may mention the Syphilis of Fracastorius, the Silk-worms and Chefs of Vida, the Ambra of Politian, the Agriculture of Alamanni, the Art of Poetry of Boileau, the Gardens of Rapin, the Cyder of Philips, the Chase of Somerville, the Pleasures of Imagination, the Art of preserving Health, the Fleece, the Religion of Racine the younger, the elegant Latin poem of Brown on the Immortality of the Soul, the Latin poem of Stay, and the philosophical poem before us.

‘ The Essay on Man is as close a piece of argument, admitting its principles, as perhaps can be found in verse. Pope informs us in his first preface, “ that he chose this epistolary way of writing, notwithstanding his subject was high, and of dignity, because of its being mixed with argument which of its nature approacheth to prose.” He has not wandered into any useless digressions, has employed no fictions, no tale or story, and has relied chiefly on the poetry of his stile, for the purpose of interesting his readers. His stile is concise and figurative, forcible and elegant. He has many metaphors and images, artfully interspersed in the driest passages, which stood most in need of such ornaments. Nevertheless there are too many lines, in this performance, plain and prosaic. The meaner the subject is of a preceptive poem, the more striking appears the art of the poet:

It is even of use to chuse a low subject. In this respect Virgil had the advantage over Lucretius; the latter with all his vigour and sublimity of genius, could hardly satisfy and come up to the grandeur of his theme. Pope labours under the same case. If any beauty in this Essay be uncommonly transcendent and peculiar, it is, brevity of diction; which, in a few instances, and those pardonable, has occasioned obscurity. It is hardly to be imagined how much sense, how much thinking, how much observation on human life, is condensed together in a small compass. He was so accustomed to confine his thoughts in rhyme, that he tells us, he could express them more shortly this way, than in prose itself.

‘The subject of this Essay is a vindication of Providence, in which the poet proposes to prove, that of all possible systems, infinite Wisdom has formed the best: that in such a system, coherence, union, subordination, are necessary; and if so, that appearances of evil, both moral and natural, are also necessary and unavoidable; that the seeming defects and blemishes in the universe, conspire to its general beauty; that as all parts in an animal are not eyes, and as in a city, comedy, or picture, all ranks, characters, and colours, are not equal or alike; even so, excesses, and contrary qualities, contribute to the proportion and harmony of the universal system; that it is not strange, that we should not be able to discover perfection and order in every instance; because, in an infinity of things mutually relative, a mind which sees not infinitely, can see nothing fully. This doctrine was inculcated by Plato and the stoics, but more amply and particularly by the later Platonists, and by Antoninus and Simplicius. In illustrating his subject, Pope has been deeply indebted to the Theodicee of Leibnitz, to archbishop King’s Origin of Evil, and to the Moralists of lord Shaftesbury, more than to the philosophers abovementioned.’

We imagine the reader will be entertained and surprised, when, by turning to the volume, he perceives the many illustrations of his philosophy which Pope has borrowed from the *Characteristicks*; of which his learned commentator and defender, Dr. Warburton, was not apprized; or, perhaps, did not care to own the debt. This is still more observable, because Pope has ridiculed this very treatise of the Moralists in the 418th line of the fourth book of the *Dunciad*.

‘Or that bright image to our fancy draw,
Which Theocles in raptur’d vision saw.’

The Moral Essays, in five epistles to several persons, are examined in the tenth section of this Essay: they are said to contain a deep and extensive knowledge of man, to penetrate into the most secret recesses of the human heart, and to discover and point out the various vices and vanities that lurk in it;
and

and in this view to equal, if not excel, Montaigne, Charron, Rochefoucault, la Bruyere, and Pascal.

As our essayist has enriched and enlivened his criticisms with a great variety of detached remarks, reflections, and anecdotes, we will select some of them, that the reader may be enabled to judge of his manner, and of the opinions he holds, which we imagine are solid, well-founded, and perspicuously expressed.

The first passage shall be taken from the Remarks on the Characters of Women; (which epistle, by the way, he thinks is not at all superior to the 5th and 6th of Young's Witty Satires.)

' See how the world its veterans rewards,
A youth of frolics, an old age of cards;
Fair to no purpose, artful to no end,
Young without lovers, old without a friend;
A sop their passion, but their prize a sor,
Alive, ridiculous; and dead, forgot. V. 243.

The antithesis, so remarkably strong in these lines, was a very favourite figure with our poet; he has, indeed, used it in too many parts of his works; nay, even in his translation of the Iliad, where it ought not to have been admitted: our author seldom writes many lines together without an antithesis. It must be allowed sometimes to add strength to a sentiment, by an opposition of images; but too frequently repeated, it becomes tiresome and disgusting. Rhyme has almost a natural tendency to betray a writer into it. But the purest authors have despised it, as an ornament pert and puerile, and epigrammatic. Seneca, Pliny, Tacitus, and later authors, abound in it. Quintilian has sometimes used it with much success; as when he speaks of style; magna, non nimia; sublimis, non abrupta; severa, non tristis; laeta, non luxuriosa; plena, non tumida. And sometimes Tully, as, vicit pudorem libido, timorem audacia, rationem amentia. But these writers fall into this mode of speaking but seldom, and do not make it their constant and general manner. Those moderns, who have not acquired a true taste for the simplicity of the best ancients, have generally run into a frequent use of point, opposition, and contrast.

' They who begin to study painting, are struck at first with the pieces of the most vivid colouring; they are almost ashamed to own, that they do not relish and feel the modest and reserved beauties of Raphael. It is the same in writing; but, by degrees, we find that Lucan, Martial, Juvenal, Q. Curtius, and Florus, and others of that stamp, who abound in figures, that contribute to the false florid, in luxuriant metaphors, in

pointed conceits, in lively antitheses unexpectedly darted forth, are contemptible for the very causes, which once excited our admiration. It is then we relish Terence, Cæsar, and Xenophon.'

Again: on the following lines he discourses thus;

' Like some lone Chartreux stands the good old hall,
Silence without, and fasts within the wall;
No rafter'd roofs with dance and tabor sound,
No noon-tide bell invites the country round;
Tenants with sighs the smoakless tow'rs survey,
And turn th' unwilling steeds another way:
Benighted wanderers, the forest o'er,
Curs'd the fav'd candle, and unop'ning door;
While the gaunt mastiff growling at the gate,
Affrights the beggar, whom he longs to eat.'

Use of Riches, v. 187.

' In the worst inn's worst room, with mat half hung,
The floors of plaister, and the walls of dung,
On once a flock-bed, but repair'd with straw,
With tape-ty'd curtains, never meant to draw,
The George and garter dangling from that bed,
Where tawdry yellow strove with dirty red,
Great Villiers lies.' *Ibid. v. 399.*

' The use, the force, and the excellence of language, certainly consists in raising clear, complete, and circumstantial images, and in turning readers into spectators. I have quoted the two preceding passages as eminent examples of this excellence, of all others the most essential in poetry. Every epithet, here used, paints its object, and paints it distinctly.

' After having passed over the moat full of cresses, do you not actually find yourself in the middle-court of this forlorn and solitary mansion, over-grown with docks and nettles? And do you not hear the dog that is going to assault you?—Among the other fortunate circumstances that attended Homer, it was not one of the least, that he wrote before general and abstract terms were invented. Hence his muse (like his own Helen standing on the walls of Troy) points out every person and thing, accurately and forcibly. All the views and prospects he lays before us, appear as fully and perfectly to the eye, as that which engaged the attention of Neptune when he was sitting. (*Iliad, b. xiii. v. 12.*)

Τῇ ἐν ἀκροβλῆσι κορυφῇ Σαμῆ ὕλησσι,
Θρηϊκῇ; ἐνθεν γὰρ ἐφαίνετο πᾶσα μὲν Ἰδῆ,
Φαίνετο δὲ Πριάμοιο πόλις, καὶ νῆες Ἀχαιῶν.

' Those who are fond of generalities, may think the number of natural little circumstances, introduced in the beautiful narra-

narration of the expedition of Dolon and Diomed, (Book the xth) too particular and trifling, and below the dignity of epic poetry. But every reader of a just taste will always admire the minute description of the helmet and crest, at verse 257; the clapping of the wings of the heron which they could not see; the squatting down among the dead bodies till Dolon had passed; Ulysses hissing to Diomed as a signal; the striking the horses with his bow, because he had forgotten to bring his whip with him; and the innumerable circumstances which make this narration so lively, so dramatic, and so interesting. Half the Iliad and the Odyssey might be quoted as examples of this way of writing; so different from the unfinished, half-formed figures, presented to us by many modern writers. How much is the pathetic heightened by Sophocles, when, speaking of Deianira, determined to destroy herself, and taking leave of her palace, he adds a circumstance that Voltaire would have disdained!

—Κλαίει δ' ὀφθαλμῶν ὄψιν
Ψαύσειεν, ὅτε χερσὶ δειλαῖα παρῶς.

‘ Among the Roman poets, Lucretius will furnish many instances of this sort of strong painting. Witness his portrait of a jealous man; book iv. v. 1130.

‘ Aut quod in ambiguo verbum jaculata reliquit;
Aut nimium jactare oculos, aliumvè tueri
Quod putat, in vultûque videt vestigia risûs.’

‘ Of Iphigenia going to be sacrificed, at the moment, when,

—mæstum ante aras astare parentem
Sensit, et hunc propter ferrum celare ministros.’

‘ Of Fear, in book iii. v. 155.

‘ Sudorem itaque et pallorem existere toto
Corpore; et infringi linguam; vocemque aboriri;
Caligare oculos, sonere aures; succidere artus.’

‘ Without specifying the various strokes of nature, with which Virgil has described the prognostics of the weather, in his first Georgic, let us only consider with what energy he has enumerated and particularized the gestures and attitudes of his dying Dido. No five verses ever contained more images, or images more distinctly expressed.

‘ Illa graves oculos conata attollere, rursus
Deficit; infixum stridet sub pectore vulnus:
Ter sese attollens, cubitoque mixta levavit,
Ter revoluta toro est; oculisque errantibus, alto
Quæsitivæ cælo lucem, ingemuitque repertâ.’

'The words of Virgil have here painted the dying Dido as powerfully as the pencil of Reynolds has done, when she is just dead.

'But none of the Roman writers has displayed a greater force and vigour of imagination than Tacitus, who was, in truth, a great poet. With what an assemblage of masterly strokes has he exhibited the distress of the Roman army under Cæcina, in the first book of the Annals. *Nox per diversa iniquies; cum barbari festis epulis, læto cantu, aut truci sonore, subjecta vallium ac resultantes saltus, complerent. Apud Romanos, in validi ignes, interruptæ voces, atque ipsi passim adjacerent vallo, oberrarent tentoriis, insomnes magis quam pervigiles, ducemque terruit dira quies.* And what a spectre he then immediately calls up, in the style of Michael Angelo. *Nam Quintilium varum, sanguine oblitum, et paludibus emersam, cernere et audire visus est, velut vocantem, non tamen obscurus, et manum intendentis repulisse.*

'A celebrated foreigner, the count Algarotti, has passed the following censure on our poetry, as deficient in this respect.

'La poesia dei populi settentrionali pare a me, che, generalmente parlando, consista più di pensieri, che d'immagini, si compiacia delle riflessioni egualmente che dei sentimenti; non sia così particolareggiata, e pittoresca com'è la nostra. Virgilio a cagione d'esempio rappresentando Didone, quando esce alla caccia fa una tal descrizione del suo vestimento, che tutti i ritrattisti, leggendo quel passo, la vestirebbono a un modo.

*Tandem progreditur, magnâ stipante catervâ,
Sidoniam picto chlamydem circumdata limbo;
Cui pharetra ex auro, crines nodantur in aurum,
Aurea purpuream subnectit fibula vestem.*

'Non così il Miltono quando describe la nuda bellezza di Eva.

*Grace was in all her steps, heav'n in her eye,
In every gesture, dignity and love.*

'Con quella parole generale, e astratte idee di grazia, cielo, amore, e maestà non pare a lei che ognuno si formi in mente una Eva a posta sua?

'It must indeed be granted, that this passage gives no distinct and particular idea of the person of Eve; but in how many others has Milton drawn his figures, and expressed his images, with energy and distinctness?

*Under a coronet his flowing hair
In curls on either cheek play'd; wings he wore
Of many a colour'd plume, sprinkled with gold;
His habit fit for speed succinct, and held
Before his decent steps a silver wand.
Dire was the tossing, deep the groans; Despair*

Tended

Tended the sick, busiest from couch to couch;
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delay'd to strike.

From his slack hand the garland, wreath'd for Eve,
Down dropt, and all the faded roses shed;
Speechless he stood and pale!

And Spencer, the master of Milton, so much abounds in portraits peculiarly marked and strongly created, that it is difficult to know which to select from this copious magazine of the most lively painting. The same may be said of Shakspeare; whose little touches of nature, it is no wonder Voltaire could not relish, who affords no example of this beauty in his *Henriade*, and gives no proofs of a picturesque fancy, in a work that abounds more in declamation, in moral and political reflections, than in poetic images; in which there is little character and less nature, and in which the author himself appears throughout the piece, and is himself the hero of his poem.

I have dwelt the longer on this subject, because I think I can perceive many symptoms, even among writers of eminence, of departing from these true and lively and minute representations of nature, and of dwelling on generalities. To these I oppose the testimony of, perhaps, the most judicious and elegant critic among the ancients. *Proculdubio qui dicit expugnata esse civitatem, complectitur omnia quæcunque talis fortuna recipit: sed in affectus mitius penetrat: brevis hic velut nuntius. At si aperias hæc quæ verbo uno inclusa erant, apparebunt effusæ per domos ac templa flammæ, et fuentium tectorum fragor, et ex diversis clamoribus unus quidem sonus; aliorum fuga incerta; alii in extremo complexu suorum coherentes, et infantium foeminarumque ploratus, et malè usque in illum diem servati fato senes; tum illa profanorum sacrorumque direptio, efferentium prædas, repetentiumque discursus, et acti ante suum quisque prædonem catenati, et conata retinere infantem suum mater, et sicubi majus lucrum est, pugna inter victores. Licet enim hæc omnia, ut dixi, complectatur eversio, minus est totum dicere, quam omnia.*

The eleventh section treats of the *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*, which Dr. Warburton has given as a Dialogue; the remarks on it are delivered in twenty-seven articles, in which many critical subjects are discussed, and many anecdotes introduced, which our author informs us he received from Mr. Spence, at Byfleet, in a visit which he made to him in the year 1754. In this section, a good deal is said of the life and writings of Boileau, more especially, because he was the model of Pope

in the latter part of his works. Our author justly thinks Boileau the most judicious of modern critics.

In the twelfth section, the Imitations of Horace, which, as appears from an anecdote of Spence, were suggested by Bolingbroke, are examined very minutely, paragraph by paragraph: and the author has shewn, in the passages quoted, in what respect Pope has equalled, excelled, or fallen short of his original. This examination and comparison would much contribute, we should imagine, to form a just classical taste in younger readers especially. Those imitations have been always admired, on account of the many happy parallels, and artful accommodations of modern images to ancient, with which they abound. In some instances, however, Pope has, unavoidably, and in some unaccountably, failed; as, for instance, in ascribing (Epistle I. b. ii. v. 264.) that introduction of our polite literature to France, which Horace, in the original, attributes to Greece among the Romans. It was to Italy, among the moderns, that we owed our true taste in poetry. Spencer and Milton imitated the Italians, and not the French. And if he had *correctness* in his view, let us remember, that in point of *regularity* and *correctness*, the French had no piece equal to the Silent Woman of Ben Johnson, performed 1609, at which time Corneille was but three years old.

The two Dialogues formerly entitled, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-Eight, but now called the Epilogue to the Satires, are said to contain satire of the strongest kind, but sometimes carried to excess; and to exhibit many marks of our poet's petulance, party-spirit, and self-importance; and of assuming to himself the character of a general censor. Our critic has not omitted the noble description of the triumphal Car of Vice, which he says is one of the most picturesque in all his works.—Observations on the Dunciad occupy the thirteenth section: its original plan and conduct are minutely investigated, which having been perfected in the three books published in quarto, 1729, are thought by our essayist to have been palpably injured and deformed by the addition of the fourth book, which is of such a very different cast and colour, as to render it at last one of the most motley compositions that, perhaps, is any where to be found, in the works of so exact a writer as Pope; who, in this additional fourth book deserts his former train of images and objects, leaves the ludicrous for the serious, Grub-street for theology, the mock-heroic for metaphysics. Some of his most splendid and striking lines are, indeed, here to be found; but we must beg leave to insist, says the critic, that they want *propriety* and

and *decorum*, and must wish they had adorned some *separate* work against irreligion and infidelity. But the Dunciad seems to have been even still more materially mangled and deformed, by a most capital alteration indeed; by withdrawing the heavy and tasteless Theobald, the true and proper king of the dunces, from the throne of dulness, and placing upon it the lively and ingenious Cibber; for lively and ingenious he must be allowed to be, who, in the History of the Stage, has painted the characters of our capital actors, so forcibly and distinctly.

The violence and vehemence of the satire in the Dunciad, and the excessive height to which it is carried, is compared by our essayist to that marvellous column of boiling water, near Mount Hecla, thrown upwards, above ninety feet, by the force of a subterraneous fire. The numbers of the Dunciad, by being very much laboured, and much encumbered with epithets, are said to have a stiffness and harshness in them.

We find it impossible, without exceeding our limits, to give an adequate account of the various particulars of ancient and of modern literature discussed in this Essay. We must therefore refer the curious reader to the book itself, where, if we are not greatly deceived, he will meet with much entertainment and instruction. But we think it proper to give his conclusion in his own words, that his idea of the merits of this great English poet may be precisely known and ascertained.

Thus have we endeavoured to give a critical account, with freedom, but it is hoped with impartiality, of each of Pope's works; by which review it will appear, that the largest portion of them is of the didactic, moral, and satyric kind; and consequently, not of the most poetic species of poetry; whence it is manifest, that good sense and judgment were his characteristical excellencies, rather than fancy and invention: not that the author of the Rape of the Lock, and Eloisa, can be thought to want imagination, but because his imagination was not his predominant talent, because he indulged it not, and because he gave not so many proofs of this talent as of the other. This turn of mind led him to admire French models; he studied Boileau attentively; formed himself upon him, as Milton formed himself upon the Grecian and Italian sons of fancy. He gradually became one of the most correct, even, and exact poets that ever wrote: polishing his pieces with a care and assiduity, that no business or avocation ever interrupted: so that if he does not frequently ravish and transport his reader, yet he does not disgust him with unexpected inequalities, and absurd improprieties. Whatever poetical enthusiasm he actually possessed, he withheld and stifled. The perusal of him affects not our minds with such strong emotions as we feel from Homer and Milton, so that no man of a true

true poetical spirit, is master of himself while he reads them. Hence, he is a writer fit for universal perusal; adapted to all ages and stations; for the old and for the young; the man of business and the scholar. He who would think *Palamon* and *Arcite*, the *Tempest* or *Comus*, childish and romantic, might relish *Pope*. Surely it is no narrow and niggardly encomium to say he is the great poet of reason, the first of ethical authors in verse. And this species of writing is, after all, the surest road to an extensive reputation. It lies more level to the general capacities of men, than the higher flights of more genuine poetry. We all remember when even a *Churchill* was more in vogue than a *Gray*. He that confines himself to the topics of the times, to recent events, and to living characters, bids fairest for general applause. The name of *Chesterfield* on one hand, and of *Walpole* on the other, fail not to make a poem bought up and talked of. And it cannot be doubted, that the *Odes* of *Horace* which celebrated, and the *satires* which ridiculed, well-known and real characters at *Rome*, were more eagerly read, and more frequently cited, than the *Aeneid* and the *Georgic* of *Virgil*.

Where then, according to the question proposed at the beginning of this Essay, shall we with justice be authorized to place our admired *Pope*? Not, assuredly, in the same rank with *Spenser*, *Shakspeare*, and *Milton*; but, considering the correctness, elegance, and utility of his works, the weight of sentiment, and the knowledge of man they contain, we may venture to assign him a place, next to *Milton*, and just above *Dryden*. Yet, to bring our minds steadily to make this decision, we must forget, for a moment, the divine *Musick Ode* of *Dryden*; and may then be compelled to confess, that though *Dryden* be a greater genius, yet *Pope* is a better writer.

The preference here given to *Pope*, above other modern English poets, it must be remembered, is founded on the excellencies of his works in general, and taken all together; for there are parts and passages in other modern authors, in *Young* and in *Thompson*, for instance, equal to any of *Pope*; and he has written nothing in a strain so truly sublime, as the *Bard of Gray*.

A New System of General Geography, in which the Principles of that Science are explained; with a View of the Solar System, and of the Seasons of the Year all over the Globe; together with the most essential Parts of the Natural History of the Earth. Part I. By Ebenezer Macfart, M. D. 8vo. 5s. in boards. Cadell.

Geography is usually divided into universal and particular. The latter describes the situation, boundaries, and constitution of particular countries. The former explains the principles of the science; treats of the earth in general, its figure, magnitude, and motion; its relation to the solar system;

tem; the influence of the celestial bodies, and other causes, on the climates and seasons; in different parts of the globe; with a variety of other circumstances relating to the natural history of the earth.

There is scarce any book of geography, in which some account is not given of its general principles; but this is seldom performed so distinctly and fully as the importance of the subject requires.

The most comprehensive system of universal geography is that of Varenus*, written originally in Latin, and printed at Amsterdam in 1650. This work was republished at Cambridge in 1672, with great improvements, by sir Isaac Newton; and in 1712, with farther improvements, by Dr. Jurin. It was afterwards translated into English, and illustrated with additional notes and copper-plates; and in this form has gone through several editions.

Since the days of Varenus, many important voyages have been performed, many curious discoveries have been made in natural philosophy, and the knowledge of geography has been considerably improved and extended. On these considerations, the author of this performance was induced to attempt a new treatise on the subject. His plan is not so extensive as that of Varenus. He has confined himself to the explanation of geographical terms; to the solution of some problems in that science; to an account of the figure, motion, and mensuration of the earth, the solar system, the celestial globe, the old and new style, the winds, the seasons in different parts of the earth, the north-east, and the north-west passages, &c.

The following account of the various methods made use of, or proposed, for finding the longitude, may perhaps be as useful an extract, as any we can select from this performance.

‘ The revolution of the earth upon its axis, does not hinder determining the latitude, but it greatly affects the longitude.

‘ All the heavenly bodies, by which we might attempt to determine the longitude, appear in perpetual motion, from east to west; so that we can find no fixed point or line in the heavens from whence to begin our account. People at sea, therefore, in order to determine the distance between the meridian of the place they are come to, and the meridian of the place they left, are obliged to determine their distance sailed, by dropping, from time to time, into the sea, a log balanced with lead, and with a line fixed to it, in order to know the rate at which they run; and, having thus found their distance sailed, they know, by

* Bernhard Varen was a Dutch physician, who died in 1669.

their compass, the angle which the ship's way makes with the meridian, and from these they determine their latitude and longitude by computation.

' This method is very laborious, and liable to several defects; and therefore, various other methods have been proposed for finding the longitude. I shall endeavour, briefly, to give some account of the most important of them.

' 1. If people could always know what o'clock it is at the place they left, they would know their longitude; because, by observing the altitude of the sun or a star, they can find, by computation, what o'clock it is where they are; and the difference of time gives the longitude: for 15 degrees of longitude on the equator gives an hour's difference of time; then, contrariwise, an hour's difference of time gives 15 degrees of longitude; and so proportionally.

' But this difference of time is not easily known. Common pendulum clocks cannot be of use at sea, on account of the motion of the ship. Watches are but imperfect measures of time, even while they are kept in the same constant temperature at land; and are much more irregular when carried to different climes, and exposed to the moisture of the sea air, and perpetual agitation. All metals are relaxed, and swell by heat; so that the spring of a watch becomes more languid, and the machine goes slower. Cold, again, contracts metals; the spring of a watch becomes more rigid, and the machine goes faster. Sometimes an excessive degree of cold makes it stand quite still.

' Mr. Harrison's machine for measuring time at sea, with ingenious contrivances for regulating its motion, and obviating the effects of heat and cold, or other machines that may be invented afterwards, if they be not sufficient, alone, for determining the longitude, they will be useful in assisting other methods, and rendering them more complete.

' 2. The eclipses of the sun and moon would give the longitude, as these are always calculated before-hand, for the meridian of some known place; and, therefore, by observing them, you would know the difference of time between the place you left and where you are. But these do not happen often enough for the purposes of navigation.

' 3. Jupiter has four moons, and each of them goes round him in much less time than our moon goes round the earth; so that the eclipses of those moons are frequent; but, on account of the ship's motion, I believe they have not yet fallen upon any method by which they may be observed with sufficient exactness.

' 4. The appulses of our moon to any known fixed star will give the longitude, as an eclipse does; or the observed distance of the moon, east or west, from any known star in the ecliptic, or near it, or from the sun, will give the longitude.

' This

‘ This method was spoken of, long ago, by Varenus, and others; but there were no correct tables of the moon’s motions extant till within these few years; neither were there any instruments sufficiently accurate for observation; so that it was considered only as true in theory, without any great hopes of its being put in practice. These difficulties are in a great measure happily removed. We now have very correct tables of the moon’s motions, from professor Mayer’s famous ones, published by Dr. Maskelyne. These, with other requisite tables for facilitating the computation of the longitude, are annually published under his inspection: and the London artists have improved the making and dividing instruments for astronomical observations to a very great degree of nicety and precision.

‘ The accuracy, both of the tables and instruments, has been verified by many repeated experiments, to the great benefit and improvement of navigation; and I have no doubt but the lunar tables will, in course of time, be farther improved, and the method of finding the longitude rendered still more correct and easy.

‘ 5. The variation of the compass may, in some places of the globe, be of use for finding the longitude; such as the Cape of Good Hope, where the variation alters with the longitude. It will likewise be of great use at Cape Horn, in stormy weather, where the current eastward is very strong, if the variation there also varies with the longitude.

‘ We may here observe, that, though the eclipses of the sun and moon, or of Jupiter’s satellites, are not sufficient to determine the longitude, for the constant demands of navigation, yet they are of great use toward the improvement of geography.

‘ It is of no consequence to a geographer, whether the theory of the moon, or of Jupiter’s satellites, agrees with the observations or not; all that he needs is, that observers, in different places, should carefully mark the precise time of the beginning or ending, &c. of an eclipse, at these places; because, by comparing these different apparent times he may find the longitude, by reducing that difference of time to degrees. Hence many errors in geography have been, and may be still corrected, and globes and maps improved.’

It is a little surprising, that we do not find in modern books of geography any reason assigned for our calling the extent of the earth from east to west its longitude, and its extent from north to south its latitude. Yet this is explained by several of the ancients. Pomponius Mela, speaking of the habitable earth, says, ‘ Hæc ab ortu porrecta ad occasum, et quia sic jacet, aliquantulum quàm ubi latissima est longior.’ Strabo says, its longitude is twice the extent of its latitude. Ptolemy and Agathemerus are more particular in their mensuration, telling

• Strabo, lib. ii. p. 116. edit. 1610.

us, that the longitude of the *known world* from west to east was 180 degrees, or 90,000 stadia, each degree containing 500 stadia; and its latitude only 40,000 stadia †.

The ancients, it is certain, knew but a very inconsiderable part of the habitable earth: viz. the tract which extends from the western extremities of Spain to the river Ganges; and from the Riphæan mountains to Ethiopia. This the Romans ostentatiously called *Terrarum Orbis*!

The greatest part of this treatise consists of observations on the climates and seasons in different places, taken from the best authors, and from the information of travellers.

Our readers may not be displeased with a short extract from the author's remarks on the voyages towards the north pole.

• The Russians have several times passed through the Zemblian straits, and gone a considerable way to the eastward, as they had vessels fitter for the navigation, and could winter in their own country, and proceed farther next year, when the ice was dissolved. But they also were at last stopped by ice, and have not been able to get about into the temperate zone. It is indeed said, that three Russian ships sailed from the mouth of the river Lena, and one of them arrived at Kamtschatka in the year 1648. That this navigation is not practicable at present, must be owing to the great accumulations of ice upon the coast since that time.

• The solid permanent ice to the north and westward of Spitzbergen, seems not to have enlarged its bounds these last 150 years, as captain Phipps got rather farther north in 1773 than Hudson did in the year 1607; yet the eastern coast of Greenland, which formerly was open to the Norwegians, is now entirely inaccessible for the quantities of ice that have been heaped upon that coast from the northward.

• The general set and current of the ocean in these northern parts seems to be from the N. E. south and westwards. This seems probable, from the ice accumulated on the eastern coast of Greenland, and from the vast quantities of drift-wood which the Dutch and English navigators met with in the Zemblian Straits, a considerable part of which is carried in by the tide into Davis's Straits, to the great comfort and relief of the poor Greenlanders; and, I suppose, it is carried down to the Tartarian Ocean by the Russian and Siberian rivers in flood, after the dissolution of the frost and the snow, and great falls of rain in the spring. One is led to this conjecture from the observations of the abbé Chappe, at Tobolsk, in 1761.

• From the whole of these voyages, it appears, that a passage to China by the north-east is impracticable, at least for the purposes of commerce. Neither are there any great hopes of a pas-

† Agathem. Geog. lib. i. cap. 6 — This geographer lived about A. D. 100.

sage round the north end of Asia or America by the Pole. Nevertheless, it would be worth while to discover how far the seas are navigable in those parts, and how far the land and the sea extend. Such discoveries would improve the knowledge of nature and of the globe; and there are scarce any improvements of this kind which do not tend at last to the benefit of the arts and of commerce. The only tract that seems to require farther trial is that between Spitsbergen and Nova Zembla. An inquiry of this kind lies more in the way of the Russians than any nation of Europe, by sailing from Archangel. Some Dutch sailors, at the whale fishery, long ago, said they had been within a degree of the Pole; and the Russian sailors, who said that they lived some years on an island of East Spitsbergen, report, that one winter the sea round them was quite free of ice. There are, no doubt, some years more favourable for such an undertaking than others, on account of the variation of the degrees of cold in different parts of the world in the same season. Thus, for instance, the last winter was extremely mild in Britain; and, even at Stockholm, they had very little frost; yet, in that same winter, there was an extraordinary fall of snow at Gibraltar: there were extraordinary frosts and cold in Italy; and, even at Constantinople, there was severe frost, and a great fall of snow. There was likewise a great fall of snow in the island of Cyprus and at Bagdad, the like not known in the memory of man. According to the newspapers report, from the whale-fishers, the last winter at Spitsbergen was milder than usual; but I am afraid it had little influence on that permanent wall of ice which stopped the progress of captain Phipps, and the navigators before him.

The author concludes this volume with an account of the country, and a monthly view of the weather for one year, near Hudson's Bay, by a gentleman who resided there a long time.

In this account he gives us the particulars of a journey performed by a young adventurer, which, he thinks, puts an end to all disputes and conjectures about inlets, since this traveller penetrated four or five degrees farther north, than any ship from Hudson's Bay was ever able to sail.

Hudson's Bay lies between 51 and 66 deg. lat. N. and 82 to 96 west longitude, bounded by undiscovered parts to the north, Terra Labrador on the east, Canada on the south, and unknown lands on the west. The length of the Bay, so far as discovered by different voyagers, and by the Hudson's Bay Company, is from Cape Dobbs, in sir Thomas Roe's Welcome, to Rupert's river, above 800 miles, and direction about S. by E. The breadth, from Cape Diggs to Churchill river, 507 miles.—To wipe off the ill founded opinion that had prevailed with respect to the Company having, at all times, crushed the discovery of a N. W. passage, they resolved to clear up all doubt, by exploring the unknown country to the north of Churchill river,

and sent an able gentleman, with proper instruments, and under the care of faithful natives of that country. He set out from Churchill, lat. $59^{\circ} 3'$, in the year 1770, and travelled to Copper river, in lat. $71^{\circ} 52' N.$ and nearly $125^{\circ} W.$ long. without crossing any river worth notice; and Copper river is but shoal, and full of falls. It was on the 16th July when he came to the river's mouth, when he had a full view of a frozen sea; not a drop of clear water to be seen but a narrow piece, caused by the ice parting from the rocky islands. This bold traveller was fully convinced that this sea was Baffin's-Bay, and that there is a communication between Hudson's and Baffin's-Bay, but shut up by ice and rocky islands from the enterprising navigator. The young gentleman was absent full three years, and was amply rewarded by his employers.'

This work, though not finished in the manner the author originally intended, appears to be carefully compiled; and throws a considerable light on the most essential parts of the natural history of the earth.

Poetical Parts of the Old Testament, newly translated from the Hebrew. With Notes, critical and explanatory. By William Green, M. A. 4to. 5s. Doddsley.

THIS publication contains a translation of the Speech of Lamech, the Blessings of Noah, Isaac, and Jacob, the Songs of Moses, the Parables of Balaam, the Song of Deborah, the Lamentations of David over Saul, the Last Words of David, the Song of Solomon, several Parts of Isaiah, the Prayer of Habakuk, and other pieces.

Some of these translations were published separately many years since; particularly the Song of Deborah, and David's Lamentation, in 1753; and the Prayer of Habakuk in 1755.

The author is a strenuous advocate for the Hebrew metre, upon bishop Hare's scheme, considering it as the best guide, in our attempts to discover the genuine reading of any obscure passages, in the poetical parts of the Scriptures.

No point of criticism has been more discussed by the learned than this, concerning the poetry of the Hebrews; and the celebrated prelate above mentioned has been thought by many persons of deserved reputation in Hebrew literature, not only to have proved the reality of the metre, but to have happily determined its peculiar laws and properties. Still, however, many doubts and difficulties remain, and probably will always remain, since we do not know, nor ever shall know, the true pronunciation of the Hebrew language.

There

There is one circumstance attending the metrical scheme proposed by bishop Hare, which evinces its great uncertainty, and the fallacy of those principles upon which it is founded; and that is, the first chapter of Genesis, the tenth of Nehemiah, or any other list of names in the Bible, will form as good metre, as any of those passages, which are produced in support of this hypothesis.

But let us hear what this learned commentator has observed in its defence.

‘ In translating these poetical pieces, I have paid regard to bishop Hare’s metre, having the same opinion of it which I had when I published the Psalms, that is, I take it to be the best guide in translating the poetical Scriptures. At present, I know, it lies under the heavy disgrace of being out of fashion. But the truth is, I have lived long enough to see things, which have been tossed away with as high a hand as that has been, received into favour again, which, I take it, will be the case with the bishop’s metre. However, whether in fashion, or out of fashion, if any thing can be done by the help of it, towards restoring the Scriptures to their pristine integrity and credit, it matters not what this man or that man may think of it. For my part, I am not ashamed to declare it to be my firm opinion, that if we had the Hebrew text as perfect as it came out of the hands of the composers, the poetical parts would fall as readily into bishop Hare’s metre, as the *Æneid* of Virgil printed as prose would fall into hexameters. But it is well known, that in many places we have not the true text. And if that be mutilated and imperfect, no wonder if sometimes the metre be imperfect.

‘ In some instances, the metre points out the corruption of the text, and at the same time the way to restore it, which is no trifling recommendation of it. In others, it gives an elegant turn to the sense, and a more proper division to the period, which would have been sought for in vain from any other aid of criticism. For the truth of this I appeal to bishop Hare’s Psalms, and Dr. Grey’s Last Words of David, and, if it would not appear vain, I might refer the reader to the Last Words of Noah. A prelate, eminent for his knowledge in the Scriptures, says, “The metre renders the sense of Noah’s prophecy clearer and plainer, and gives to each part of it its just weight and proportion:” which is saying as much in its favour as needs to be said. Had not the metre pointed out a transposition in this prophecy, we might have gone on writing dissertation after dissertation without ever suspecting it: but the verse no sooner points it out, than it is acknowledged; for it carries intuitive evidence along with it.

‘ For want of knowing the metre, the Masorets have divided the poetical Scriptures into periods and clauses very injudiciously. To mention only a few instances in Isaiah xiv. In per. 7, they have put a full stop between the nominative case and verb. Now

what can be more glaringly absurd? And yet our translators, never suspecting it, have followed them into the same mistake. Let the reader judge for himself, whether the Masoretical or metrical division of the period is to be followed. The Masoretical I give in the words of our translator.

‘ 7. The whole earth is at rest and is quiet :

They break forth into singing.

‘ 8. Yea, the fir-trees rejoice at thee,

And the cedars of Lebanon, saying,

“ Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.”

‘ The metrical division runs thus,

‘ The whole earth is quiet and at ease ;

Even the fir-trees break forth into singing,

And the cedars of Lebanon triumph over thee, saying,

“ Since thou art laid low, no feller is come up against us.”

‘ Now which of the two is the true division of the period ? which the most just and elegant ? In per. 6. one word is mispointed, and another misread, probably from the same cause. At least, it was the metre which suggested the true pointing and reading to me. Our version runs thus :

‘ 6. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke

He that ruleth the nation in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

‘ The version suggested by the metre is this :

‘ He who in wrath smote peoples, is himself smitten ;
without any to avert the blow :

He who in anger chased down nations, is himself chased down ; without any to prevent it.

‘ And now which of the versions is the most pointed ? which the most worthy of the sacred poet ? that founded on the Masoretical text, or that suggested by the corrections of the metre ?

‘ How awkwardly have the Masorets divided the 18, 19, 20, and 21 periods ? Into the 19 they have crowded together no less than three similes. In the others, they have joined together what ought to have been kept separate ; and separated what ought to have been joined together. If we take the metre for our guide, these things will be rectified without much difficulty. The Masoretical division is the same with ours.

‘ 18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them lie in glory, every one in his own house.

‘ 19 But thou art cast out of thy grave, like an abominable branch : and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit, as a carcase trodden under feet.

‘ 20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people : the seed of evil doers shall never be renowned.

21 Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

‘ The metrical fellows.

‘ All the kings of the nations are laid down in glory, each in his tomb :

But thou art cast forth from thy sepulchre, as an abominable branch ;

As the raiment of those that are slain, who go down to the vaults of the pit.

‘ As a carcase trodden under foot thou shalt not be joined with them in burial ;

Because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people.’

‘ The seed of evil doers shall be mentioned no more :

Prepare slaughter for their children for the iniquity of their fathers :

Let them not rise again, nor possess the earth,

Nor fill the face of the world with their cities.’

‘ It requires no great discernment to say, which division is most just, and does most honour to the sacred text.’

Lofty thoughts, animated descriptions, bold figures, sudden transitions, and a certain correspondency of the parts of a period to one another, with frequent alliterations, are the principal peculiarities, which at present are known to distinguish the Hebrew poetry. The quantity of the syllables, the number of them in many words, and the accent, are totally unknown ; and all that a modern commentator can possibly discover, with respect to the metre, is a *seeming* equality, similitude, or proportion in the sentences, or the parts of a period.

This proportion is what our author calls the metrical division ; and, in some cases, we confess, it may point out, in conjunction with the rules of grammar, analogy, and reason, a corruption of the text. But under the circumstances we have just mentioned, it must be a fallacious guide ; and the commentator, who would venture to lengthen or shorten every irregular line, in conformity to the rules of this supposed metre, would make many enormous alterations in the text, and treat the Bible with as much arbitrary severity, as Procrustes treated the travellers of Attica. The Last Words of David, by Dr. Grey, afford, if we rightly recollect, a specimen of these defalcations. But in justice to Mr. Green, we must observe, that he has been very cautious and prudent in making alterations on the authority of the metre. He has been still more cautious in trusting to the authority of the Masoretic text. And in this respect he has certainly acted the part of a liberal and judicious critic,

The Masoretic punctuation, by which the pronunciation of the language is given, the forms of the several parts of speech, the construction of the words, the distribution and limits of the sentences, and the construction of the several members, are fixed, is in effect an interpretation of the Hebrew text, made by the Jews of late ages, probably not earlier than the eighth century. Where the words unpointed are capable of various meanings, the Jews, by their pointing, have determined them to one meaning and construction; and the sense, which they thus give, is *their* sense of the passage; without any other authority than what arises from its being agreeable to the rules of just interpretation. A modern commentator is therefore, undoubtedly, at liberty to admit or reject it, as he sees occasion. The Hebrew verity is a phantom, introduced by ignorance and superstition, which is now universally exploded.

‘ The collations of the Hebrew MSS. now lie before the world. To pass a just and proper judgment on them, will require more time and examination than I can bestow upon them. In the few places I have consulted them, I must own, they have not afforded me the satisfaction I expected from them. They have, however, done one thing most effectually, which is worth all the thousands which they have cost the public in collating them; that is, they have delivered us from the shackles of the Hebrew verity. And though they may not answer the high expectations we had formed of them, yet we may hope some genius will arise, who may strike out such elucidations of Scripture from them as are in vain to be expected from the present text.

‘ Many are the texts which the sagacious translator of Isaiah has restored. But it appears from what this learned prelate has done, that more texts have been retrieved by happy conjectures and ancient versions than by the MSS. Various are the ways by which transcribers have corrupted the Hebrew text: sometimes by the omission of letters, of words, of clauses, or of a period; sometimes by the transposition not only of these but of a paragraph; and sometimes by the interpolation of a marginal note: now the Hebrew MSS. supply few corrections but what are literal, or at best verbal. As to the omission of clauses or periods, or the transposition of them, this, so far as I have been able to learn, is not to be expected from them. Here then a new field of criticism opens itself to the learned.

‘ As to omissions, it will be in vain to go about to supply them without MSS. or ancient versions, unless the context, the structure of the period, the contrast or parallelism should suggest and demand them. One omission I will venture to supply by this mode of criticism: but if this be not to be relied upon, I have nothing more to say in vindication of it. In Isaiah i. 21, the text stands thus,

‘ How

‘ How is the faithful city become an harlot ?

It was full of judgment, righteousness lodged in it ;

But now murderers.

In my judgment two words have been dropped here by the transcriber. These, which I take to have been *maleab damim, filled with bloodshed*, I supply from the context, per. 15. If these be admitted, the translation will run thus,

‘ How is the faithful city become an harlot ?

How is She that was full of judgment filled with bloodshed ;

Righteousness once dwelled in her, but now murderers !

If the two words have been omitted, the parallelism of the two first lines, and the contrast in the last, seem to vindicate me in replacing them.

‘ Transpositions are more easily discovered. And when restored, generally set right two places, the place I mean from which they are restored, and the places to which they are restored, as may be seen in the last Words of Noah. In some places, indeed, they leave a vacancy, which will want to be supplied by the words which were omitted, when the transposition was first made. In Isaiah vii. 7, 8, 9, great confusion is observable. Our translation runs thus,

‘ 7 Thus saith the Lord God,

Their counsel shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.

‘ 8 For the head of Syria is Damascus,

And the head of Damascus is Retzin ;

And within threescore and five years

Shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people.

‘ 9 And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,

And the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son.

The prophecy was delivered on this occasion. Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, and Retzin king of Syria had entered into a confederacy against the kingdom of Judah, and were at the very time of the delivery laying siege to Jerusalem, with design to rend off a part of it for themselves, and, after dethroning Ahaz, to set the son of Tabeal over the rest. Under these alarming circumstances, the prophet is sent to Ahaz to tell him, that their counsels should not stand. And then to give him the fuller assurance he pronounces judgment on the two kings. For though at that time they might pride themselves in the strength of their capitals, and the stability of their kingdoms ; yet within a limited time their capitals should be taken, and their kingdoms destroyed. As the text stands at present, indeed, judgment is pronounced only on one of them ; and that judgment is out of its proper place. But the ingenious Dr. Jubb, by restoring two lines in this prophecy to their proper place, has set the judgment on Ephraim in full view. He translates thus,

‘ Though the head of Syria be Damascus ;

And the head of Damascus, Retzin ;

‘ And the head of Ephraim be Samaria,
And the head of Samaria, Remaliah’s son ;

‘ Yet within threescore and five years,
Ephraim shall be broken, that he be no more a people.

But still the prophecy is incomplete. And though we are obliged to this learned man, for restoring the judgment on Ephraim to its proper place ; yet there is a visible vacancy in the place from which he has restored it. And this can be owing to nothing else, but to a transcriber’s having omitted the words containing the judgment on Syria, when he intruded those containing the judgment on Ephraim into their place. What these words were, it is impossible for us to say ; as neither the MSS, nor ancient versions supply them. We must be content therefore, to collect as well as we can the sense, from what the context of the prophecy, compared with the history of its completion, suggests. And this sense in my judgment may be expressed in some such words as these, Within three years Syria shall be laid waste, This sense being admitted, I translate the prophecy thus,

‘ Thus saith the Lord JEHOVAH,
Their counsel shall not stand, nor come to pass.

‘ For though the head of Syria be Damascus,
And the head of Damascus, Retzin ;
Yet within three years shall Syria be laid waste.

‘ And though the head of Ephraim be Samaria,
And the head of Samaria, Remaliah’s son ;
Yet within threescore and five years,
Shall Ephraim be broken, so as to be no more a people,

The time of Syria’s being laid waste cannot be fixed with precision. But history as well as prophecy inform us, that the two kingdoms were laid waste by the same conqueror at the same time, though Ephraim was not then brought to its final ruin. History informs us, 2 Kings xv. and xvi. that Ahaz had at this very time hired Tigleth-pileser king of Assyria to come to his assistance against these two kings, and that he actually came, and slew Retzin king of Syria, and laid waste his kingdom ; and likewise laid waste the kingdom of Ephraim, carrying away captive several of the tribes of Israel. With this, prophecy coincides, In Isaiah viii. 4. we are told,

‘ — Before the child shall know how
To pronounce, my father or my mother,
The riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria
Shall be borne away before the king of Assyria,

‘ And in xvii. 3.

‘ The fortress shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus :

And the pride of Syria shall be as the glory of the sons of Israel.

‘ And

‘ And after the event, the king of Assyria boasts, x. 9.

‘ Is not Samaria as Damascus ?

‘ Having laid before the reader two omissions of the transcribers in this prophecy, I will give an instance or two of additions.

‘ In chap. vii. 16. a pronoun has been interpolated, which has embarrassed the sense from that day to this. The text in our translation runs thus,

‘ For before the child shall know
To refuse the evil and chuse the good,
The land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her
kings.

The prophecy is addressed to Ahaz and the house of David ; consequently the land here mentioned must be the land of Judah which the two confederate kings were come professedly to harass, to rend off a part of it for themselves, and to set the son of Tabeal over the rest, per. 6. But so far were they from succeeding and becoming kings of Judah, that in this very period it is foretold, they should abandon their enterprize. The land of Judah therefore, could not be the land of the two kings, and the pronoun *her* must have been an interpolation of the transcribers. Accordingly the LXX did not find it in their copy. The period should be rendered thus,

‘ For before a child shall know how,
To refuse the evil and chuse the good ;
The land shall be abandoned,
By the two kings which now harass thee.’

In the foregoing extract our author refers the reader to the prophetic words of Noah to his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japhet, Gen. ix. This prophecy is extremely perplexed in our translation, which stands thus :

‘ V. 25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan ; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

‘ 26 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.

‘ 27 God shall enlarge Japhet, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem ; and Canaan shall be his servant.

‘ These three periods, says Mr. Green, upon the application of bishop Hare’s metre, resolve themselves into three stanzas, each containing two verses, in this manner :

‘ 25 And Noah said —

Cursed be Ham, the father of Canaan !

A servant of servants shall he be to his brethren,

‘ 26 And he said —

Blessed be JEHOVAH, the God of Shem !

For HE shall dwell among the tents of Shem.

‘ 27 And he said —

God shall give Japhet a large inheritance ;

And Canaan shall be their servant.’

This

This prophecy, our author thinks, was delivered by Noah, not immediately after Ham's derision of him, but immediately before his death. The Hebrew particle, which is translated *and*, in ver. 25. certainly does not necessarily connect that verse with the preceding: for it frequently begins a new subject. However this may be, the patriarch has very solemnly and distinctly foretold the different fortunes of his sons, and their descendants in future ages.

In the present Hebrew text, instead of 'Curfed be Ham the father,' we have only 'Curfed be Canaan.' This reading has given occasion to forced interpretations on the part of believers, and to ridicule on the part of unbelievers. The former suppose, that the grandson was most in fault. The latter, seeing no grounds for this supposition, insist, that the curse pronounced contradicts all our notions of order and justice.

To solve this difficulty Mr. Green observes, that the authors of the Arabic version read in the copy they translated from, 'Curfed be the father of Canaan;' that the Seventy, according to some copies, read, 'Curfed be Ham;' and lastly, that the two Hebrew words, *Ham abi*, which signify 'Ham the father,' exactly fill up the Hebrew verse. He therefore supposes, that these two words must have been omitted by the copyists, and ought to be restored.

This remarkable prophecy, as our author observes, was fulfilled, with respect to Ham and his posterity, in the subjection and slavery of the Canaanites, the Egyptians, and the rest of the Africans.

The twenty-sixth verse in the present Hebrew text is hardly sense. Yet neither manuscripts nor ancient versions give us any light. In this exigence, says our author, 'the Hebrew metre steps in to our aid; and as it affords us a satisfactory answer, so in its turn it receives from hence a fresh confirmation of its truth and importance. If then we apply the metre to these two *blessings* , we shall find a line in the second (v. 27.) 'And he shall dwell in the tents of Shem,' which spoils the versification, and embarrasses the sense. But if we expunge the second line in the blessing of Shem, where it is incoherent and unnecessary, and replace it with this line, it will not only cohere, but make the sense complete, and the blessing complete:

'Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Shem!

For HE shall dwell among the tents of Shem.

That is, he shall make his glory to descend from heaven, and take up its abode in a visible manner among the tents of Shem.'

The

The Hebrews were the descendents of Shem (Gen. x. 21.) and this verse, as our author explains it, alludes to the glory in the tabernacle, the special care and protection which Jehovah vouchsafed to the Israelites, the preservation of his worship among them, and particularly to the Messiah, who was descended from Shem, and as St. John expresses it *ἐσ-κηνώσεν*, *tabernacled* among them: which word, says Mr. Green, is evidently derived from, or rather the same with, the Hebrew word *sacan*, *he shall dwell*, here used by Noah.

The third stanza contains the blessing of Japhet; and, to keep it distinct from the preceding, was, our author imagines, undoubtedly introduced in the same manner, with 'And he said.' But these words, he tells us, have been dropped.

The sons of Shem did not go out of Asia. The sons of Ham peopled Africa, and the parts of Asia adjacent. And the sons of Japhet overspread Europe, and all the northern parts of Asia, bordering upon it. Even China, says our author, has not long ago been conquered by the descendents of Japhet; and the New World has been peopled from his territories. All this is emphatically expressed by the patriarch: 'God shall enlarge Japhet, or, give him a large inheritance.'

In this manner our excellent commentator has unravelled the perplexities of many passages, which have been hitherto thought inexplicable. He has indeed taken some liberties with the original text, which may by some readers be thought unwarrantable: as it may be said, that this is not explaining the scriptures as we find them, but modelling them anew, and accommodating them to our own ideas; that is, to certain rules of accuracy and elegance, which the ancient writers were by no means solicitous to observe.

In answer to this objection it may be remarked, that the Jewish copyists were guilty of many absurd practices, in transcribing the scriptures, but particularly of one, which has been the source of innumerable perplexities, repetitions, and transpositions; and that is, the custom of leaving their mistakes uncorrected, lest by erasing they should diminish the beauty and the value of the transcript.

Besides this, if we consider the general character of the Jews, which was that of a stupid and illiterate race of men, who can scarcely boast of ten or twelve tolerable authors, since the days of Ezra, we can form no dependence on Masoretical and rabbinical authority, or the imaginary infallibility of Jewish transcribers.

Homer's Hymn to Ceres, translated into English Verse, by Richard Hole, LL.B. 8vo. 2s. Dilly.

IT is needless to inform the learned reader, that a Hymn to Ceres, attributed to Homer, and supposed to have been lost, has lately been discovered among some Greek MSS. in a library at Moscow. It is published, in its original language, by Ruhnkenius of Leyden; but it is *now* only that the English reader is enabled to judge of the beauties of a poem, which, if not the production of Homer, must have been written in an age of simplicity, scarcely more refined than that in which Homer flourished. This poem, in an English dress, must be more acceptable to the world in general, because *no* translation has ever yet appeared. Ruhnkenius declines it, on account of the hazard attending it. Mr. Hole attempts it with becoming diffidence, and indulges some rational conjectures where the words of the original are imperfect or unintelligible. Mr. Hole, to a classical genius, unites the talent of an easy flow of versification; and he seems to have followed Pope in giving, in many parts of the poem, an elegant paraphrase, instead of a more exact literal translation. The notes which are subjoined, contain illustrations of the poem, and a few conjectural emendations.

The Hymn consists of a narrative of the rape of Proserpine, the grief and anger of Ceres her mother, and consequent neglect of tillage and husbandry, which were under the protection of that goddess; her adventures during her journey, in search of her daughter; and her restoration, through the mediation of Jupiter, by which she enjoyed the company of her mother, and spent two-thirds of the year in the regions of the immortals, and one-third with her husband Pluto. It is not easy to select a passage for a specimen of this very agreeable poem; the following picturesque description, from which a painter might copy, is exceedingly interesting, both for its lively colours, and for a faithful picture of the untainted simplicity of the primitive ages. Ceres, wandering in pursuit of her daughter, approaches Eleusis, the residence of Celeus, who governed that district of Attica.

‘ Beside a path, while o’er her drooping head
His grateful shade the verdant olive spread;
As by her feet Parthenius’ waters flow,
She sits, a pallid spectacle of woe.
Her faded cheeks no more with beauty bloom’d,
But now the form of wrinkled age assum’d.
She seem’d like those whom each attractive grace
Forfeaks, when time with wrinkles marks the face;

From

From whom the Cyprian power indignant flies,
Her gifts refuses, and her charms denies;
Who, in some regal dome, by fate severe,
Are doom'd to nurse, and serve another's heir.

' Four gentle nymphs light-moving o'er the plain
Approach; four brazen urns their arms sustain—
Great Celeus was their fire—he bade them bring
The limpid water from Parthenius' spring.
Lovely they seem'd as heaven's immortal powers:
Youth's purple light, and beauty's opening flowers
Glow'd on their cheeks' —————

These enchanting damsels address Ceres with much humanity and respectful attention, enquire into her situation, and kindly propose that she should attend on Demophoon, their new-born brother. They obtain the mutual consent of the goddess, and of their mother, and, exulting in the success of their benevolent attempt, return with all the transport of a humane heart enabled to relieve distress.

' Like the kine's lowing race, that sportive bound
Along the plain with flowery verdure crown'd;
Or the sleek fawn, when he at first perceives
Spring's genial warmth, and crops the budding leaves;
Thus joyful thro' the beaten road they pass,
With robes collected to promote their haste.
Their tresses, like the crocus' flamy hue,
In waving radiance round their shoulders flew.'

On comparing this poem with the original, we have, however, discovered one or two places where the translation does not entirely meet the ideas we formed on reading the Greek. We have always been of opinion, that the heathen mythology received, in the progress of successive ages, some material alterations. Jupiter, in the Roman writers, acknowledges no equal; he seems equally to command the air, the sea, and the infernal regions; and we felt a weakness in the expressions of Pluto, which seemed by no means suitable to the ideas inculcated of Jupiter's dominion in the acknowledged works of Homer. The image of the offended Neptune in the Iliad, is solemn and sublime. He feels no inferiority to Jupiter, and proudly asserts that his subordinate station is to be ascribed solely to the determination of chance (Iliad, b. xv. l. 206, Pope.) It is somewhat remarkable that the word, so strongly insisted on by Neptune, is applied by Phæbus, in this Hymn, to Pluto's department; which, he says, was determined by 'lot;' *ἔλαχεν, ὡς τὰ πρῶτα διατρίχα δαίμων;* *ἐτύχθη*; but the force of this passage our translator has not entirely preserved, though the indignant spirit of Pluto, which bears

bears with difficulty the assumed superiority of Jupiter, is well displayed in a subsequent passage :

‘ Go Proserpine—

’Tis fruitless, nay ’tis folly to complain—

Nor I a husband that deserves disdain—

Brother to Jove supreme!’

In the former passage the equality of the two brothers is industriously pointed out by Phœbus, in the strongest terms, Γαμ-
 Ἐρὸς Αυτοκασίγνητος καὶ ὁμόσπορος.

In another passage, l. 46 of the original, and the 82d of the translation, the words οἰωνῶν ἐτήτομος ἄγγελος are translated ‘birds of omen’d flight;’ but we would submit to the ingenious translator, whether they might not be more properly rendered ‘faithful interpreter of the flight of birds.’ We are rather inclined to adopt this opinion, as Apollodorus, in his narrative of the same event, which remarkably coincides with the present poem, relates, that Ceres was informed by the assistance of Ἑρμηνεῶν, *interpreters*, of her being conveyed to Tartarus. We can however readily suppose, that the translator was aware of our interpretation; and, as the words will undoubtedly allow of the meaning which he has assigned them, he has probably preferred it, because it is a more elegant version.

We own ourselves somewhat disappointed, that the translator has evaded a task for which he seems well qualified, from his general classical knowledge, and his particular attention to this poem; we mean the determination of the question *to whom it belongs*. Its internal evidence undoubtedly refers it to a very remote æra, but there are still objections to its being Homer’s. Ruhnkenius, its original editor, notwithstanding the predilection which we usually attribute to that character, is inclined to think that it is the production of some other author. He finds that a passage in the scholiast on Nicander, quoted from the Hymns ‘attributed to Homer,’ is wanting in this, though it relates to Ceres and to Iambe, one of the characters in the present poem. He thinks that the verse, though excellent, wants the force, the fire, and the spirit of Homer, in many parts; and that many words and phrases in this poem will scarcely be acknowledged by critics as *Homeric*. We mean not to enter the lists with a man of such established credit and character; we own however that, from a very attentive examination, we are ‘willing to believe’ it the work of the immortal bard whose name it bears. Some circumstances have occurred to us which weaken, in a great measure, the

objections of Ruhnkenius. It is very evident, as the translator has well observed, that the poem is defective in the very part in which the passage, quoted by the scholiast, must have been found; and yet Ruhnkenius, though he discovered the deficiency, preserves his objection. His second objection must be allowed to be very weak and insufficient; perhaps no writer was more unequal than Homer, and if *one* passage can be produced which is not unworthy of his muse, we can easily overlook many weak, loose, and useless ones. There are many passages which would scarcely have disgraced Homer: the description of the daughters of Celeus is inimitably beautiful; every passage in which Pluto is introduced is gloomy and terrible; and we would refer the learned reader to l. 355, &c. for some lines which seldom have been excelled. The 360th, and the three following lines, are perhaps as perfect 'echos to the sense,' as Homer ever produced.

Ruhnkenius is less exact in his last objection, for the forms of speech he had said were entirely Homeric. The exceptions however are few, and his list comprehends, in particular, a compound adjective as an attribute of Pluto, used instead of his name*. This is not uncommon in Homer; but even if it were, we might well use the reply of an elegant Frenchman to Dr. Moore 'Ce n'est pas en verité Francois, mais il merite bien de l'être.'

We mean, on the whole, to recommend, in the strongest terms, this translation to the attention of the public; the few passages we have pointed out, in which the translator seems less exact, were chiefly selected to recommend them to his attention, in a future edition. We hope he will not consider our selection to arise from an ill-natured wish to expose those little inaccuracies which perhaps are unavoidable. We respect his genius and assiduity; and shall be happy, on a future occasion, to meet him on the same classic ground,

Homer's Hymn to Ceres, translated into English Verse; with Notes, critical and illustrative. To which is prefixed, a Translation of the Preface of the Editor, David Ruhnkenius. By the Rev. Robert Lucas. 4to. 3s. Robson.

Another translation of the same elegant poem. It is perhaps difficult to determine which of these gentlemen has succeeded best in his undertaking; both seem possessed of great critical sagacity, taste, learning, and poetical abilities.

'Et vitulâ tu dignus & hic.'

That our readers may be enabled the better to determine this point, we shall first lay before them Mr. Lucas's translation of the same passages in the Hymn from which we quoted Mr. Hole's version of it.

' Hard by the way, afflicted, now she chose
Her seat : and, near, a limpid spring arose ;
From whence Eleusis' sons pure water drew ;
Whilst over head the spreading olives grew :
Her aged form seems past a mother's rights,
And garland-loving Venus' dear delights ;
Such oft there are, who nurse the sons of state,
And oversee the mansions of the great.

Here, as the goddess sat in grave disguise,
Her form attracts great Celeus' daughters' eyes ;
Who hither came, to fill with streams profuse,
Their brazen vases for domestic use :
Four goddesses they seemed, divinely trained :
And on each face the virgin bloom remained.

This is not so diffuse as Mr. Hole's, but more simple and closer to the original, as are also the following lines,

' As saturated does, or calves, disdain
The vernal ground, and bound along the plain ;
Exulting, so, the sisters hasten back,
And lightly skip along the wonted track ;
Whilst their fair robes in graceful folds are bound,
And golden ringlets flow their shoulders round.

though Mr. Hole's, which we quoted in the preceding article, are more harmonious and poetical.

To these we shall here subjoin another passage from each of the translators. Metanira having entrusted her darling child, Demophoon, to the care of Ceres, interrupts the goddess in her divine work of purification of the infant, and is thus reproved by her.

From Mr. Hole's translation.

' ——— Oh mortals vain !
Whose folly counteracts what gods ordain !
Who lost in error's maze, will never know
Approaching blessings from impending woe !
Long, for the rashness that thy soul possessest,
Shalt keen reflection agonize thy breast.
For, by that oath which binds the powers supreme
I swear ! by fable Styx, infernal stream !
Else had thy son in youth's perpetual prime
Shar'd heavenly joys, and mock'd the rage of time.
But now 'tis past ! from fate he cannot fly !—
Man's common lot is his—he breaths to die !—

But

But since a goddess on her knees carest
Thy child—since oft he slumber'd on her breast,
Fame shall attend his steps, and bright renown
With wreaths unfading shall his temples crown.
In future times, torn by discordant rage,
Eleusis' sons commutual war shall wage;
(Then Demophon)

* * *

' Know then that Ceres, from whose bounty flow
Those blessings the revolving years bestow,
Who, both from gods and man's frail race demands
Her honours due, before thy presence stands.
Away, and let Eleusis' sons unite,
Where steep Callichorus' projecting height
Frowns o'er the plain, a stately fane to rear:
Her awful rites its goddess shall declare.
There with pure hearts upon the hallow'd shrine
Your victims slay, and sooth a power divine !'

The same passage by Mr. Lucas.

' Rash mortals ! ignorant what heaven intends !
Unconscious if 'tis good or ill impends !—
Thy folly, too, imprudent as thou art,
Will bring repentance to thy sorrowing heart :
For know !—and by inexorable Styx
I swear ! the sacred oath that gods can fix !—
My purpose was to purify thy son,
T' immortalize thy dear Demophon ;
Upon his frame eternal youth bestow,
And fix unfading glory on his brow !
But that is past :—now, mortal is his state,
And subject to the future laws of fate :
Yet, since thy son within this bosom lay,
Perpetual honour shall his life display :
Whilst, in the circuit of his future years,
Eleusis' sons shall lift their hostile spears ;
And, with the fury of internal rage,
Amongst themselves a dreadful war shall wage.
Hear, mortal, hear ! whilst I myself unfold :
'Tis honour'd Ceres, whom you now behold !
Whose ample stores delight and gain bestow,
On gods above, and mortal men below !
But go ! and let the city's strength unite,
To honour me upon yon neighbouring height :
There, let a vast majestic temple spread,
To crown Callichorus's lofty head !
An altar raise within the sacred fane :
Myself will holy mysteries ordain ;
And such as, with due rites, my will shall please,
Shall gain my favour, or my wrath appease !'

The passage immediately following these lines is remarkably beautiful in the original Greek; we shall therefore lay it before our readers, together with the two translations.

Ὡς εἰπὼσα θεὰ, μέγεθος καὶ ἰδὼς ἄμειψε,
Γῆρας ἀπώσαμένη. περὶ τ' ἄμφ' αὖτε κάλλος αὐτῇ,
Ὀδμή δ' ἱμερόεσσα θοήντων ἀπὸ πέπλων
Σκιδνατο, τῇ δὲ φέσγ' ἀπὸ χροῶς ἀθανάτοιο
Λάμπει δινε, ξανθαὶ δὲ κόμαι, κατὰ γῆρας ἄμειψεν
Αἰγυῖς δ' ἐπλήσθη πυκνὸς δόμος, ἀστερομένης.

Which Mr. Hole renders thus,

' This said; the front of age so late assum'd
Dissolv'd—her face with charms celestial bloom'd
The sacred vesture that around her flew,
Thro' the wide air ambrosial odors threw:
Her lovely form with sudden radiance glow'd;
Her golden locks in wreaths of splendor flow'd.
Thro' the dark palace stream'd a flood of light,
As cloud-engender'd fires illumine the night
With dazzling blaze—then swiftly from their view,
Urg'd by indignant rage, the goddess flew.

Mr. Lucas's is as follows:

Thus, as she spoke, her aged semblance fled,
And grace and majesty appear'd instead;
Her golden locks about her shoulders flow'd,
And beauteous, breathing round, its charms bestow'd;
Her fragrant robes diffused a grateful scent;
And, from her frame divine, such radiance went,
That, like th' ætherial flash, it struck the sight,
And fill'd the mansion with celestial light!
Forth, thro' the palace, then she fled, and left
The hapless mother of her sense bereft.

The first version of these lines is much the best; the public, however, is obliged to both the translators for the pains they have taken in copying and illustrating a most excellent ancient performance, happily rescued from oblivion, the possession and perusal of which must give great pleasure to all the admirers of ancient literature.

*Georgics. In a series of Letters to a Friend. Written in 1776.
By William Halyburton, D. D. 8vo. 7s. Donaldson.*

THESE Letters are supposed to have been written to a gentleman, who, besides his patrimony, comes unexpectedly into the possession of an estate, consisting of six or seven thousand acres, delightfully situated near Fairbrook, that is, we

sub-

suppose, in the Isle of Pines, or in Utopia. On this occasion the proprietor applies to his friend Dr. Halyburton, requesting the favour of his advice, relative to the management of his villa. The doctor, like a speculative philosopher, lays down a very extensive and magnificent plan. The character he delineates is, not that of a sharper among sharpeners, but that of a patriarch, loving and beloved, blessing and blessed by a numerous family. His mansion is to be a sort of *urbs in rure*, provided with a variety of offices and conveniences of every kind, on a grand scale. His apiary, for example, is to be furnished with 600 hives; his hoggerly to contain 8 bears, 66 sows, 160 pigs, and 200 hogs; his millpond to yield him annually 40,000 trouts; his poultry to consist of 396 roosts, with every other article in proportion.

The reader may form a proper notion of this romantic establishment, by the following description of 'the patriarch' and his attendants, assembled for the purpose of celebrating his birth-day.

'The quaternions, and so forth, being put under the care of married women, in the morning the people, in their best array, rendezvous on the school-green.

'You take your station on horseback in front of the inn, and the procession begins.

'Preceded by a band of music, march the goodmen's deputies, with sheep-hooks in their hands. They are led by a master-shepherd elected by themselves, who has a silver sheep-hook, with which he salutes as with a spontoon.

'Next come 96 milk-maids, followed by 24 boys on poneys, followed by 24 dairy-mistresses on palfreys. The dairy-mistresses salute with the right-hand.

'They are followed by 18 goodmen on horseback; one of them bearing a standard with rural symbolical devices. Next comes Columella, single, followed at proper distance by the 6 first goodmen. All these salute with the hat.

'Next come 92 threshers, then 70 plowmen, then 48 cow-herds, then 24 hogherds, then 48 feeders, followed by 120 lads and boys. Follows the bee-master at the head of beemen, gardeners, and foresters, followed by the master-gardener and master-forester. The masters salute with the hat. Next comes the mill-master on horseback, leading your servants of Millville, whose rear is brought up by the hog-master on horseback. The masters salute.

'Next comes a band of music. Then the schoolmaster, who salutes, and is followed by his scholars, followed by the ushers who salute: then the other inhabitants of Millville, and the whole of Parishtown properly disposed, who all salute.

'The weather permitting, the procession is succeeded by a concert on the mill-pond. The people then disperse to their homes,

and after a plentiful good dinner pass the rest of the day in dancing and innocent revelry.

In the present age it can scarcely be imagined, that such a company, on such a festival, would pass the day in 'innocent revelry.' Drunkenness generally closes the scene. But the reader must remember, that this is a patriarchal system, which does not allow such an infamous profusion of liquor, as he may possibly have seen at the election of a patriotic senator; or on the birth-day of a rich young libertine, when he succeeds to his estate, and makes the conduits overflow with the production of his father's cellar.

In the course of this work we meet with a variety of miscellaneous observations, some of which are curious, and others chimerical. We shall present our readers with a few of them, for their instruction or entertainment, without attempting to vindicate their solidity, their utility, or their importance.

Of chimneys and gun-barrels.

'My idea of a chimney is taken from the barrel of a gun, both of them being pneumatical engines. Many years ago I was engaged with some others in finding out the method of boring the barrel of a fowling-piece, so as to make it throw the shot the closest. After numerous experiments we at last hit on what pleased us. The barrel having been formed into a perfect cylinder, we applied to the muzzle a frustum of a cone seven or eight inches long, whose smallest diameter was that of the calibre of the barrel, and whose largest diameter was $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{10}$, or $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch more. After boring the muzzle with this frustum of a cone, we bored likewise the breech of the barrel with it. On comparing these barrels with those we had commonly used, we found that they threw into a sheet of paper, thirty yards distant, four, six, eight times the quantity of shot thrown by the common barrels. When the sporting season came, we brought down the birds at surprising distances, which was the thing required.

'Some years afterwards, when on service, my winter-quarters were on a frontier post. I had a hut into which my baggage was thrown. On kindling a fire, I had like to have been smothered with smoke. I called a mason, an intelligent fellow, and sent him up to examine the orifice of the chimney, which was about twenty feet high. He reported, that it was rather narrower at top than below. I caused him to take it down four feet, and rebuild it, widening the orifice to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in the length, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in the breadth. The consequence was, I had no more smoke.

'Taking it for granted, that the dwelling-house is clear of steeple, dome, cupola, and every thing that throws downward eddies, my opinion of a perfect chimney is thus: dividing it from the chimney-piece to the top into five equal parts, build the first fifth tapering to where the oblong square orifice begins to run
equal

equal for three fifths. In the last fifth, let the orifice widen to the top 1-18th of the length, and 1-18th of the breadth. Nor do I advance this altogether without experience.

'You will observe, that in the construction of such a chimney, particularly if of great height, the masonry must be very fine, and such as no model-maker can take off.

'By the common rules of pneumatics, both gun barrel and chimney seem falsely constructed for obtaining the ends in view. But facts are facts, notwithstanding theory may not for a time be able to account for them.'

Of lucern and the Americans.

'You will annually need some high ripened lucern seed from France, Spain, or Italy; or rather, if I might advise a bolder transition, from the clear sunny regions of America, where, as in Maro's Elysium,

"Largior his campos æther et lumine vestit

Purpureo, solemque suum, sua sidera norunt."

'Even at gloomy Halifax, when not one hundred yards above the level of the Atlantic, I have seen mercury. How wide the transition! to a new world, whose shores know no soundings beyond twenty leagues; whose heaven-aspiring trees are held by no taproots; whose natives are men without beards, and women who feel no pains of childbirth.

Of ancient and modern fertility.

'The fertility of regions is often the effect of human industry. Campania, once the garden and granary of Italy, is now a stinking poisonous waste, from the depopulation made by barbarism succeeded by slavish superstition. Grass uncropped on level land will in time give a surface of morass.'—

'—Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and the south-eastern skirt of the peninsula of Nova Scotia, being within the range of the bank fogs, can never be made frugiferous.'—

'—The numerous harbours of Ireland, by far the best in Europe, seem as if intended by Providence to invite Ireland to plow another element. Time was, when she grew the best oak in the world. The roof of Westminster-hall, coeval with the walls, is now fresh as from the hands of the carpenter.'—

'—The thermometry of the whole terraqueous globe is variable. Armies of old marched over the Tiber on ice. The Norwegians for ages had a settlement on Greenland. For ages they have been cut off from it by an increasing icy continent.

'When Anson sailed round the world, he found the weather colder in the southern than in the same latitudes in the northern hemisphere. A Dutchman about that time sailed under the north-pole star in fine weather. The sun being annually above seven days longer to the north than to the south of the line, seemed to warrant the greater warmth, a permanent phenomenon. It is otherwise. Falkland's ile is now warmer than Newfound-

land, and the north pole inaccessible for storm and extreme cold. —

‘The greatest disruption is that mentioned by Plato on the faith of a tradition among the Libyans, that westward lay an island once part of a continent, whence it had been dis severed by an earthquake. Here is a fore-glimpse of the land of Columbus. The like we have of the Cape of Good Hope from Herodotus, on the faith of a tradition among the Persians, that a ship once sailed from one of their ports so far south that the sun was to the northward, and that after standing long to the west she bore away north till she reached the Pillars of Hercules. The historian treats the whole as a fable. But I much mistake if Alexander did. The time when Friesland subsided lies hid in Gothic or monkish darkness. This event had not been known, otherwise than by conjecture, but for Tacitus mentioning the Frieslanders as horsemen, inhabiting a hilly country. In proof, when digging pits to this day they strike on the tops of oaks and other trees, of sorts now found incapable of growing in the province. Their horses are now of bad blood, and the men the worst of bad horsemen. To beautiful variety of hill and dale hath succeeded a flat surface of sand and bad soil.

The submersion of that part of Kent, which reached from North Foeland to Goodwin Sands or farther, is of known date, it having been part of the estate of earl Goodwin, father to king Harold, who was slain in battle by William the Norman.

‘The Goodwin Sands are no compliment to English good sense or industry. Possessed by the Hollander, they had been diked 700 years ago, to the enriching of the possessor; and by lights properly disposed round the island, to the saving of thousands of valuable lives.’

Sea-sand against mice.

‘Putting stacks on cumbersome frames is an idle expence; 400 weight of straw, of which there will be superabundance, spread under the bottom of each, will keep it dry; and 1-4th peck of sea-sand, sown on the two or three lowest tiers of sheaves, will effectually prevent mice. Fresh sand may possibly do the same; but of that I have no experience.’

Of the use of oxen.

‘Oxen, no more than work-horses, are fit for the chase or Newmarket; yet in the Hither India the oxen carry travellers at a good round trot, and would do so in England were they put to such service. That the pilgrimage of a broad-wheeled waggon, from Gloucester or Chester to and from London, could be performed in two-thirds of the time and at one-half the expence by oxen, because they are steadier, stronger, less subject to disease, or casualty, and require less food, and shorter halts.

‘Nor will the farmer deny, that two thorough-bred oxen will plow their acre as speedily, and at least as well as two good horses.’

Of wool.

In Lincolnshire the fleeces are 8lb. one with another. In Leicestershire, where wedders are reared to 37lb. the quarter, the fleece is 17lb. In the south of Scotland, where the mutton is 15lb. the fleece is 4lb. of indifferent wool. Such poor quantity and quality is principally owing to the smearing or tarring the sheep; a custom scarce heard of elsewhere save in the fells of Lancashire, and wolds of Yorkshire. The reasons assigned for this practice are, that it keeps the sheep warm, and prevents the scab.

One would think, that moistening and clotting the downy young growth at the root of the wool were the very way to make the sheep cold; and that tar, for collecting sand and dirt, were applied on purpose to give him the scab: so industrious is folly at defeating its own ends.

In Shetland the fleece is 2lb. of the finest of wool, which is pulled, not shorn, and the mutton 3lb. the quarter. The sheep are black, brown, dun, gray, chestnut; and some of them of all these colours.

The king of Spain was once the greatest shepherd in the world. His flock of five millions was, in ordinances of state, termed the precious jewel of the crown, and brought annually into the royal coffers 375,000l. sterling. It wintered in the vales of Manca, Estremadura, and Andalusia, whence in spring it moved northward in detachments of 10,000 sheep, and passed the summer in the hills and elevated plains of Leon, Old Castile, Cuenca, and Arragon. An allowance of salt, where needful, was found for the royal flock in those northern territorial jurisdictions. By signs of impatience to be gone, the old sheep gave the shepherds notice when to advance northward or southward. This fine woolled grand flock hath for ages been the property of many. The fleece of a wedder is 6½ lb.

The moufflon is a native of the promontory of California; yet no sheep were found on the discovery in the whole continent of America, except that beast of burden the guanaco; from its woolliness called by Europeans the sheep of Peru.

Of cavalry.

I am one of the great many who think, we had much better be without cavalry altogether, save four troops to attend on the person of the king, and half as many to do honour to the viceroy of Ireland.

They are triple the expence of foot, and taken for all in all, man for man, cannot be reckoned more than equally useful.

We are insulars. Our real war is maritime, is amphibious.

If we ever recommence continental Quixotism, better hire half the cavalry of Germany, or thrice their number in infantry, than continue for thirty years devouring the grain, and wasting the pastures of Great Britain and Ireland.

Of tea and fugar.

'In China, so intersected with canals polluted by the super-numerary millions of men living in floating houses, the leaves of the Tchó tree serve to expurge the water. In the Seven United Provinces, where are many canals and very few fountains, tea serves the same purpose. But then a Dutchman drinks no milk, and uses only one bit of sugar-candy of the size of a nut. With this clumtye in his cheek, he will keep dabbling now and then for hours, but without neglecting his work.

'Chinese and Hollanders through necessity expel a greater poison with a less. The English of choice mingle their pure fountain water with an exotic weed, vapid, dispiriting, and shortener of life. Then, with all its waste of time, of fuel, of metal, of crockery, of sugar, of cream, of bread and butter, tea saves no meal. What pity we so long want some effectual sumptuary law to stop this growing evil!

'Weighed against honey mel arundineum kicks the beam. Acre for acre, no sugar plantation in either Indies can vie in sweetness with your apiary. The little aerial heaven-taught chymist leaves for man but a few cleanly operations.

'By experimental process, a method might be discovered of rendering honey dry and conveniently portable as sugar.

'The juice is expressed from the sugar cane by the feet of scabby slaves. The sugar boiler makes use of ingredients, to which rotten carrion is a nosegay. Nor is the filth totally defecated by fire. Hold a bit of double-refined sugar against the flame of a candle, and it shall quickly trickle the blood of measles swine, mixt with what runs from the sores of ulcerous negroes.'

Among other articles, this enterprising writer recommends the transplantation of corn by women and children; and the hatching of chickens by artificial heat. By the latter scheme he calculates, that the projector might clear 3750*l.* a year. With respect to the general utility of his plan, in the article of propagation, he supposes, that it would produce the multiplication of children, as well as chickens, in an astonishing degree.

'The annual increase, he says, would be 200,000 souls: so that in time of the hottest war, here would be recruits for a navy and army of half a million of natives.'

*Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica. No. III. Containing a Description of the Chanoury in Old Aberdeen, in the Years 1724 and 1725; by William Orem, Town-Clerk of Aberdeen. 4to. 5*s.* Nichols.*

THE plan of this undertaking is extensive and liberal; and the care and industry the editors have hitherto discovered cannot fail of recommending them to the attention of the public.

This

This Number contains a particular description of the chanonry in old Aberdeen.—Mr. Orem, the author of this tract, appears to have been a person of considerable learning and acuteness. The transcript from which it is published was made by James Dalgarno, surgeon and apothecary at Aberdeen; and from him it was purchased by Mr. Gough, in the year 1771. The great objects of Mr. Orem's curiosity were the bishoprick, monastery, and colleges of Aberdeen. His work, accordingly, may be considered as illustrative rather of the ecclesiastical than the civil history of that place.

The observations of the author will attract chiefly the curiosity of the antiquarian. They are minute, and have the appearance of fidelity and exactness; but they exhibit little that can excite the attention of general readers. In the work there are preserved several charters which evince the antiquity of the feudal tenures among the Scots. Concerning the bishops of Aberdeen, there are many biographical details; and while the affairs of the church receive frequent explanations, a considerable light is thrown upon the manners and customs of old times. The history of the university and King's College of Aberdeen, makes a large article in this performance; and, as a specimen of the manner and ability of the author, we shall submit a portion of it to the judgment of our readers.

Anno 1500, bishop Elphinston built a very stately college, assigning to all the present professors and students different lodgings and accommodations; and founding also several other persons therein, to the number at first of thirty-six; afterwards enlarging them to forty-two, to all whom he appointed their proper offices, mansions, and callings, with a desire, no doubt, that others whom God should bless with the like means should after his example do the like for the glory of God, and encouragement and advancement of religion, learning, and virtue. Which college was appointed at first to be called Collegium S. Mariæ in Nativitate; afterwards (the king taking it into his own peculiar protection) The King's College of Aberdeen; by which name it has always been designed to this day.

The persons founded therein are these following: first, four doctors in the four principal faculties.

The first in theology, who is appointed to be called principal, to whom all the rest are subject, and to whom is committed the whole government of the college; who is also bound by his office in his doctrinal habit, after the manner of the doctors of Paris, to teach theology, omnibus diebus legibilibus, and also to preach the word of God unto the people.

The

• The second in the canon law, who is also bound in his doctoral habit, ut supra, to teach either in his manse or in Ecclesia Beatae Mariae ad Nives, commonly called the Snow Kirk, whereof he was also appointed rector, and obliged to maintain on his own charges a vicar in the said church, procurator animarum.

• The third, in the civil law, and the fourth in medicine; obliged also both of them to teach in their respective faculties, after the manner above written.

• All these four ought to be doctors in the respective faculties before ever they be admitted to these places, si commodè haberi possint, otherwise at least licentiated; who, within a year after their admission, shall cause themselves to be promoted to the aforesaid degrees.

• Next to these are appointed eight masters of arts. The first whereof is appointed to be subprincipal, being adjoined to the principal in the administration of all things belonging to the college, and in his absence having the sole administration and government; who also ought to be at least bachelor in theology, and to have his lessons (ut supra) within the college, both in theology and also in philosophy and arts; and to whom also is committed the whole discipline and correction of all the students in college, whether in philosophy or theology.

• The second, grammarian; who is to have the charge of the grammar-school, and to teach grammar, rhetoric, and poetry.

• The other six are appointed to be students in theology, until such time as they are capable of being promoted to the degree of doctorate in that faculty, which is only for the space of six years, after which they ought to receive the said degree, and to be removed, and their places filled with others.

• There was afterwards a special indultum granted by pope Paul III. anno 1538, to bishop Elphinston, and his successors, bishops of Aberdeen, to continue the said students during pleasure, after the expiring of the aforesaid six years, in case either of want of others qualified to be put in their places, or any of them had not attained to such a measure of knowledge as fitted them for the aforesaid degree, but were desirous to study for some longer time in order thereto.

• Of these six also are appointed to be chosen two or three, cum opus fuerit, at the pleasure of the principal and subprincipal, ad regentiam in artibus, who are bound to teach philosophy and arts to the students, and are therefore designed regentes artium.

• All these six also are obliged by the foundation, after they have received the degree of bachelor (which ought to be within

within three years after admission, under pain of deprivation) to read theology publickly, more *Baccalaureorum Parisiensium*; as also in the eves of all the greater festivals to preach in Latin per vices in the chapel of said college, before the principal and all the masters and students; as also after dinner and supper, to lecture upon that portion of scripture which is read by one of the students of philosophy before meat.

After these, are appointed three batchelors and students in the laws; two in the civil and one in the canon law, who ought to attend the public lessons in the laws, and also to read the institutions thereof, more *baccalaureorum*; and one of them further to officiate as chaplain of St. Mary Magdalene's in St. Nicholas's church in Aberdeen, having the profits and emoluments of that chaplainry assigned him for his salary. And all these asorenamed persons, both doctors, masters, batchelors, students (the mediciner only excepted) are bound by the foundation to be priests; at least thrice a week to say mass, and perform holy things.

But beside all these, there are founded further, thirteen bursars or students in artibus; the two first thereof (si commode haberi possint) are to be of the surname of Elphinston; and the three next of the parishes of Aberluthnot, Glenmuik, Glengarden, and Slains, or out of every one of them and both: and the rest of them ought to be such as their parents are not able on their own proper charges to entertain at the university, and are therefore to be maintained gratis in the said college at the study of philosophy, until such time as they be promoted to the degree of master of arts; which is to be three and a half years; after which they are to be removed, and others to be put in their places. And, when any of the asorenamed bursars in theology are vacant, these according to their foundation are to be preferred. As also when any of the asorenamed prebends, viz. principal, canonist, civilist, mediciner, subprincipal, or grammarian shall happen to vacate, one of the college who shall be judged fittest is to be preferred; and if none within the college be found qualified, one out of the same (*extra idem*), but still of the university, who is otherwise inhabilis, so long as any of the asorenamed persons shall be found capable.

There are further founded eight prebendary priests (*octo sacerdotes prebendarii*), the first whereof is appointed to be called cantor, whose office is to order the tune and musick thereof, and other things of that nature belonging to divine service; as also by himself to keep a musick school, and to teach and instruct in that science all such as are willing to learn,

The second is called sacrist, to whom is committed the care of the church, the bells, and the hours of divine service, and all the ornaments and other necessary utensils belonging thereto.

The other six are called Capellani Chori, whose office is with the other two to perform the daily service morning and evening, and at other canonical hours. Every one of these, before he be admitted, is to give a specimen of his sufficient knowledge in grammar and musick; and also to make choice of some one of the aforesaid faculties, wherein he is to study and improve himself, that he may be the better fitted for the service of God.

Last of all, for fulfilling the aforesaid number, are founded six singing boys (*pueruli choriales*), having good clear voices, and being skilled in musick; who are bound, with the aforesaid priests and chaplains, at all hours to be present at divine service, and also to study diligently in one or other the aforesaid faculties. For the accommodation of all these founded persons, the aforesaid bishop William Elphinston built (as has been said before) a very stately college, consisting of an entire court, with chapter, hall, school, chambers, and all other necessities, all covered with lead; and assigned lodgings to the principal, subprincipal, and all students both of theology and philosophy within the gates thereof, with all desirable easements and accommodations.

For the rest he built particular and distinct manses, with gardens, and all other necessities, without the college, viz. for the canonist, civilist, mediciner, and grammarian, appointing them to have their lessons in their own manses, which were furnished with all conveniences for that effect, as if they had been so many little colleges. He appointed also to be built chambers and other accommodations for the chaplains and singing boys, which was afterwards begun, and brought some length, though not perfected, by bishop William Stewart, in a more commodious and convenient place than had been appointed by bishop Elphinston, which is now allotted to the principal for his dwelling house, but yet goes commonly under the name of Chaplain's Chambers. But above all, the church or chapel was furnished and adorned with as great variety of rich and splendid ornaments as any church or chapel in Scotland, either for altars, images, pictures, crosses, crucifixes, monstrances, eucharists, chalices, lamps, candlesticks, vestments, hangings, bells, or any other things, usual in churches in those days. A particular inventory whereof and register is still extant in the charter chest of the said college, amounting to an incredible value.

For

For maintainance also of the aforesaid persons, the same bishop Elphinston, beside the former mortifications of the hospital of St. Germain's, and parsonage and vicarage of Slains, which were principally by his procurement, mortified several other considerable things, and by his interest and authority in the country, and chiefly by his good example, moved several other persons both churchmen and laicks to do the like; insomuch as to every one of the aforesaid persons was allotted a distinct though mean salary, until such time as it shall please God to move the hearts of others to bestow more liberally upon them.

The editors, from a view of rendering the performance of Mr. Orem the more useful, have prefixed to it the Life of William Elphinston, bishop of Aberdeen; a prelate of high reputation in his time, and to whom that city owed many and great obligations. This memoir is translated from Hector Boethius, who, beside his History of Scotland, wrote in Latin the Lives of the Bishops of Murthlac and Aberdeen. The editors have also adorned this number of their Collection with a Survey of Old and New Aberdeen, and the adjacent Country, between the two Rivers Dee and Don. This survey is the work of G. and W. Paterson, and was engraved in the year 1746. From that period till the last summer, when it was purchased by the editors, it had lain concealed among the accumulations of J. Millan's shop at Whitehall.

Bath Anecdotes and Characters. Small 8vo. 2s. 6d. sewed.
Doddsley.

IF this little volume should be found on a stall in Holborn, or any other receptacle of forgotten books, about fifty or sixty years hence, it may possibly afford some entertainment to the reader, as it may convey to him some idea of the manners which prevailed, and the characters which figured at Bath in or about the year 1782. To the present age it can give no satisfaction, as it contains little more than a string of stale anecdotes and stories that have been already repeatedly told at Bath, retailed in the London newspapers, and almost universally known by every person who reads or converses in this great metropolis.—It tells us how Mr. B—— cheated Mr. S—— of two thousand pounds;—how they met in the rooms, quarrelled, and fought;—how a certain sharper concealed a card under his hand, and another gentleman stuck a fork into it, with no other apology, than Sir, if you have not got a card under your hand, I ask your pardon;

don; (a very old story indeed!) how a great lady at Bath fell in love with a fidler;—how lady M. wrote Letters from Italy;—how she had a Tuscan vase at her villa filled with poetry, which she rewarded with a sprig of myrtle;—how there is a fierce-looking man at this place, whose hand is against every man, who is always telling agreeable stories, picking quarrels, and writing in newspapers;—how a dignified clergyman received a public rebuke for indecent behaviour to a lady of character, who had invited him to take shelter in her house from a storm of rain, &c. &c.

That our readers may see the manner in which our anecdote-writer has told his stories, we shall present them with an extract from two of the least known, and therefore the best in this little collection.

“That young lady, says our author, in pink-coloured satin is the daughter of a country clergyman, who is lately in a very unexpected manner become possessed of a large fortune. The story is this:

“This clergyman was no otherwise provided for than by two curacies three miles a-part, of about twenty-five pounds a-year each; but living in a cheap county, he made a shift to provide decently for a wife and three children, this young lady, and two sons now at Eton.

“One day a poor man called at his door to ask his charity; seeing something agreeable and above the vulgar in his countenance, he entertained him hospitably, and divided all the riches he had left in the world, till a few days brought his next quarter’s salary due. In farther conversation he asked him the story of his life: the stranger told him that his name was Edwards, that he had been many years a sea-faring man and a trader in the Indies, in which the misfortunes he had met with had happened to many before.

“Pray, said the curate, whose name was Jephson, are you any ways related to the Edwards’s of ———?” “I am, he said. I was the son of John Edwards, the squire of the parish; but my elder brother running away with all the estate when my father died, I embarked with five hundred pounds, the whole of my fortune, in a voyage to Bengal. On my return to England, I waited on my brother, who is still alive, but not seeing me loaded with the riches of the East, he would not receive me, and ordered his doors to be shut against me.”

“I am very sorry for that, said the curate; he has not used me very well, and I have found it very difficult to obtain, at different times, the small pittance of the fortune which my mother should have had, for I am the son of his sister and of yours.

“Although my income be not large, yet it shall be cheerfully devoted to your ease and comfort; and if we cannot obtain the luxuries, he that feeds the ravens will never suffer us to

want the necessities of life; and God's blessing will always make the brown loaf grateful.

“He called his amiable wife to pay her respects to her uncle, which she did with unaffected grace and affection. The old gentleman turned aside;—the tears ran down his cheeks;—you oppress me—you overwhelm me with your goodness; but God will reward you. The children were introduced, and hung about his knees. In the mean while dinner was provided; when, just as they were sitting down to their homely fare, an elegant coach drove up to the door. They all started up in surprise. Pray, says the stranger, whose coach is that? Is it your's, my cousin? Oh, no, sir! replies the niece. Why then, it shall be; it is mine; and that and all that I have is your's, my child, my children. I am not poor; God has blessed me with abundance. You divided your all with me when you thought me in distress; you relieved me when you thought me poor; when I was hungry you fed me; and you were bountiful to me when I was in want: and now, my children, all the wealth that I have got shall be bestowed on you. Do not be afraid to receive it; it will wear well; it is industriously, it is honestly obtained, and not a single guinea is stained with blood or rapine.”

Then comes another story, which our author names ‘A Tale of Woe.’

“Yonder is a lady making a subscription for a family in distress. In all probability too late for the wants of him for whom it is principally intended.”

“A young gentleman, a lieutenant in a marching regiment quartered in a town in the north of England, at an assembly danced with the daughter of an attorney in the place: an acquaintance commenced, and from this sprang up an intimacy, friendship, and at last love.

“The friends on each side were consulted, and they agreed to the match; but from motives of prudence insisted that our lieutenant should first obtain a company, or else some place out of the army, which would provide a comfortable maintenance for his wife and family that might be.

“This to be sure was a very natural and judicious precaution; but, alas! neither of their parents would advance the sum necessary for either one or the other purpose, although the father of the lady was to pay down, on the day of marriage, three thousand pounds as his daughter's portion; and a settlement of proportionable value was to be made by the father of the lieutenant.

“Love ill brooks delays; and the young couple soon after made an elopement to Scotland. On their return, the lady's father, glad of an excuse to save his money, pretended to be very angry that they had despised his prudent advice, and absolutely refused to give his daughter a shilling. Because he refused, the other parent was equally obstinate, and the lieutenant was turned loose to the world to fight his way with his sword;—without mo-

ney,—

ney,—without friends, except a wife whom he loved, and she was all the world to him.

“ His regiment was ordered to Minorca, and after staying there three years, they came back to England, in a situation of distress. Their expences had exceeded their income, though managed with the greatest care and frugality; and his agent refused to advance more money. Their parents were deaf to all their petitions, and their letters were at last returned unopened. So cruelly did these ignorant barbarians treat one act of precipitancy in love;—but they seemed to vie with each other in their resentments.

“ The wife went to her father with three children, and was rudely and inhumanly forbid the house. On her return she fell sick; a physician of the place advised her to come to Bath. He sold his commission to defray the expences of the journey. Not much remained, after paying his agent; but all would be well expended to save his Louisa. They came. Alas! it was not a case within the healing powers of Bath. Her heart was broke;—and a few days ago, she breathed her last in the arms of her beloved.

“ Words cannot describe the situation of the husband; his sorrow is beyond compare. “ Let me not,” he said, “ curse the author of my being; “—let me not curse the father of my Louisa. If they knew the story of our woes!—Alas, well, too well they knew it.—Oh, my heart! break, break!—Let me follow my Louisa.—And yet to leave my pretty little ones a prey to want and misery,—to beggary,—perhaps to prostitution;—Oh, it is too much, too much!—Save them,—Oh save them!—Father of all mercies, look down upon them,—bless them.—

“ He could utter no more. Attending and watching his Louisa, abstinence from necessary food, and grief accumulated, were too much for his constitution to support. He fainted; and falling on the floor, brought the neighbours to his apartment. The eldest little girl, about four years old, was weeping over her father as he lay, unconscious of her mother's death.

“ His distresses were now made known, and the master of the lower rooms, with a generosity that does him great honour, began himself, and promoted a subscription for their relief.

“ [A handsome subscription was raised, and would have been applied to have re-purchased his commission—but it was too late. The poor lieutenant never held up his head again. The children were taken care of; but his mind was too much attached to his Louisa; and the sympathetic thread which united both their souls, was too strong for the allurements of the world.—Almost without a struggle his heart broke too.]”

These tales which, for aught we know, may be true, if told by an able writer, would have had some effect; in their present form they only swell a volume, which, from the nature of its contents, and the style of the writer, must be quickly buried in oblivion.

MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

POLITICAL.

A Constitutional Defence of Government. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Wilkie.

IN this production, which is dedicated to her majesty, as a princess no less distinguished for her enlightened understanding than for her exemplary virtues, the author takes a general view of the principles of the constitution, so far as they relate to the rights of the people, and the privileges of the legislative body. In the course of his enquiry, he scruples not to controvert the sentiments of a writer of great weight, and yet greater popularity, on the subject of government. Sidney having affirmed, and the doctrine being now warmly espoused by some political enthusiasts, 'that in cases of *emergency* every man is a magistrate, and who best knows the degrees of danger, and the means of preventing it, has a *right* to call the people to an assembly; this writer contends, and with great justice, that it is a delusive proposition, which countenances the most violent innovations, and may utterly subvert the frame of government. He observes, that the interposition of the people in the legislative and executive powers of the state, is equally dangerous and unconstitutional; and that even the constituent body, or that part of the community which appoints representatives, has no right to *judge* of legislation and government, after the temporary delegation of representatives.' If by the people's right to *judge*, the author means, in this passage, to *control*; and the sense can admit of no other rational interpretation, we must entirely coincide with him in opinion.

This writer farther remarks, that the present spirit of petitioning is not only unconstitutional, but ridiculous; that for the people to associate, after delegating their power to representatives, is illegal; and that to petition the authority which they affect to condemn, is absurd. Upon this principle, he goes so far as to affirm, that the sheriffs, who have called the people to an assembly in their respective counties, have acted illegally, and are liable to a prosecution, at the suit of the crown.

Our readers will readily believe, that, by such a writer as the present, the so much boasted, but unmeaning expression, of the *majesty of the people*, is treated with very little respect. The author's design, through the whole production, is to refute the principles of those who are distinguished by the appellation of the Minority; and it must be acknowledged, that the arguments which he advances, however unpopular, are too firmly established in reason to be overthrown, even by the most violent opponent. Left, from any thing we have said, this author should be considered as an advocate for despotism, we must observe, he wishes, for the sake of consistency and good order, and for

the credit of our national understanding, that those who are so very tenacious of the rights of the people, and so fearful of encroachments upon them, would be pleased to remember, that the crown and the peers have each, at least, an equal right and interest to be tenacious of their share in the constitution; and that it is equally dangerous, unjust, and unconstitutional, to exceed the bounds of the people's power, as it would be, in either of the other estates of the kingdom, to encroach on popular privileges. This is the language of truth, moderation, and sound politics.

A Second Letter to the Right Hon. Charles Jenkinson. 8vo. 1s. Murray.

This political correspondent dates his Letter from Brussels, and affects to write in the character of an Englishman, who, living remote from his country, is entirely free from party-prejudices. He condemns the personal scurrility of the Independent Whig, author of the former Letter to Mr. Jenkinson; but is of opinion that it contained many just censures on the conduct and measures of administration; and joins with the author, in lamenting 'the fallen condition of Britain under a new system of secret and irresponsible influence;' an influence which, he thinks, calls loudly for the interposition of the people. But while our author so implicitly adopts the idea of an interior cabinet, he reprobates several of the remarks made by the former writer; and accuses the members of opposition, not only of great inconsistency in their attacks on government, but of having actually abetted and incited the Americans to revolt. In particular, he expresses his astonishment at the influence ascribed by the Independent Whig to the name and flag of admiral Keppel; and in support of this remark, he shews the superiority which the British fleet possessed over that of France on the 27th of July, 1778. The author of the former Letter to Mr. Jenkinson, concluded with recommending a total change of administration; but his opponent advises a coalition of parties; and, like the other correspondent, settles the whole arrangement of a new administration.—How much is the nation indebted to the zeal and modesty of these writers, who thus take upon themselves the task of dictating to the executive power, in a matter of such importance!

An Address to the interior Cabinet. 4to. 2s. Debrett.

This Address appears to be the production of the author of the Letter to Mr. Jenkinson. The addresser proceeds upon an idea, that the affairs of government are ultimately directed by some favourite counsellors, of whom the ostensible ministers are only the humble agents. Of this interior cabinet he supposes Mr. Jenkinson to be one of the principal members; and having already expostulated with that gentleman, he now turns his attention to the others, in an aggregate body. He accuses them of leaving the nation destitute of any foreign ally; of sowing dis-

diffension in every respectable family, to which their agents could gain access; and, in short, of ruining the nation, both by the measures of government, and their practices on the virtue of individuals. The writer next proceeds to arraign the conduct of the first lord of the admiralty, whom he charges with being answerable for the surrender of lord Cornwallis's army, by not keeping in the American seas a fleet superior to that of the enemy; which he takes for granted might have been done. To corroborate the charge of negligence in the marine department, he takes a view of the state of the navy at the time when lord Hawke quitted the admiralty-board; but he contents himself with a general assertion, that our naval force is, at present, greatly inferior to what it was at that time. Upon the whole, with all the declamation, and all the invectives of this writer, the charge which he produces is no less vague than the allegation, that there exists an interior cabinet, is totally unsupported by any evidence.

The Pangs of a Patriot. 8vo. 6d. Walker.

The subject of this lamentation is the capture of lord Cornwallis and his army; an event, however, which, in its consequences, the patriot considers as not irreparable. While we, therefore, compassionate the pangs of this poor patriot, it is some consolation to reflect, that, upon the idea suggested by himself, his mourning may yet be turned into joy.

Letters addressed to the Admiralty, on the naval and commercial Interests of this Kingdom. By Lieutenant Tomlinson. 8vo. 1s. Debrett.

These Letters, written at various times, from the month of February, 1776, to December last, relate to a proposal, made by Mr. Tomlinson to the board of admiralty, for informing them of a method, by which the navy may not only be increased with great expedition, but the ships rendered far more durable than they are at present. It appears that Mr. Tomlinson has been referred by the admiralty to the navy-board; to the members of which, individually, he is willing to communicate his plan; but not to submit to the whole board, officially, without an adequate reward, a scheme which he has devised with so much labour, and in the prosecution of which he has greatly injured his health. In this stage rests Mr. Tomlinson's application, an attention to which he continues to recommend, with great zeal, to the board of admiralty.

Free Thoughts on the Militia Laws. By Thomas Pennant, Esq. 8vo. 6d. White.

This is the production of Thomas Pennant, esq. who now, for the first time, appears as a political writer; in which capacity his benevolence is no less conspicuous than, as a naturalist and a traveller, are his knowledge, liberality, and good sense. Mr.

Pennant addresses these Thoughts to his countrymen, the poor inhabitants of North-Wales, for the laudable purpose of making them acquainted with the militia-laws; which being numerous, and the punishment attending the breach of them severe, might, otherwise, be infringed through ignorance. In the prosecution of this design, he gives a concise detail of the several statutes; on which he also makes some remarks, worthy the attention of the legislature. Mr. Pennant observes, that, in the old militia, all business relative to the charging the subject with finding soldiers, was committed to the lieutenant of the county and his deputies; or, in the absence of the lieutenant, to the major part of the deputy lieutenants then present; which major part was to be three at least. Our author remarks, that, even at the first framing of the new militia, this important security of the interests of the poor subject was weakened; for, the powers were in that act entrusted to three deputy lieutenants or justices only; and since that time, the number (when the militia is in actual service) is reduced to two only. This, Mr. Pennant observes, has been a most dangerous and imprudent alteration. 'Every one, says he, knows the hazard of trusting power in few hands. Friendship, or an unfortunate congenial turn of mind, may be found in two, which will hardly be met with in a greater number. In fact, two may become but as one, and this reduction be productive of the most shameful abuses.' Mr. Pennant observes, that the possible abuse of the power of rejection, or acceptance of substitutes, when lodged in two only, shews the necessity of resuming the ancient mode, and of enlarging the number. For, at present, let the power be ever so much abused, the subject is left without redress; there being no punishment for those who make a wanton exertion of it.

The Propriety of allowing qualified Exportation of Wool historically discussed. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Elmsly.

The author of this production takes a concise historical view of the woollen trade and manufacture, in Britain, from the end of the twelfth century to the present period; specifying their occasional advancement or decline, and assigning the causes by which the variation was produced. He observes, that any one who examines the woollen exports of half a century, must perceive the continual fall of one year, the certain rise of the next, the diminution of the third, and the exaltation of the fourth over all: that experience demonstrates, that when abundance has glutted foreign markets in one year, repletion is cured in the next by sending a scanty supply; and that the natural rise and fall of demand and gratification enable ignorance, interest, and faction to combine in raising a cry of the ruin of manufacture, and the decay of commerce. According to this writer, the more immediate causes of the obstruction in the commerce of wool, at present so much complained of, may be found in the change of modes; in the preference universally given by the fashionable

to the textures of silk, cotton, and linen; in the failure of demand, while the supply was enlarged; and above all, in the flourishing state of our husbandry; which, by means of inclosures, produces, if not more numerous flocks, at least a greater quantity of wool, since their fleeces are of a higher weight and of a better staple. This effect, he observes, was remarked a few years ago by Mr. Arthur Young, who evinced in his Tours, that the enclosing of the country must necessarily increase the quantity and goodness of our wool.

After the historical detail exhibited by this writer, of the various laws relative to the woollen trade, and of their different operations; he delivers it as his decided opinion, that the prohibition on the exportation of wool ought to be immediately removed, as the only expedient calculated to afford any effectual relief; and from the registers which he produces, of the woollen exports in former years, there seems to be the strongest reason for expecting the most beneficial effects from a qualified application of that measure.

Reflections on the present Low Price of coarse Wools, its immediate Causes, and its probable Remedies. By Josiah Tucker, D. D. 8vo. 1s. Cadell.

The method in which Dr. Tucker treats his subject, is, first, to state the fact; secondly, to enquire into the cause or causes of it; thirdly, to propose the probable cures, or preventive remedies; and, fourthly, to consider the principal difficulties, or obstructions against carrying such schemes into execution.

In regard to the fact, the dean admits it to be certain, that the English coarse wool has been sinking in price for some years, until at last it is fallen so low, as to give a general alarm to the nation.

The causes which he assigns are, first, the stoppage of the exportation of coarse cloths, blanketing, ruggs, serges, &c. to foreign countries, and particularly to America, on account of the war; secondly, the prodigious difuse of coarse woollen goods throughout the kingdom; the latter of which the dean considers as the principal cause; thirdly, those home customers for coarse wool, on whom we might depend, because they are not in a capacity to wear any other kinds of garments, are diminishing in number every day; fourthly, while coarse wools are growing into difuse among us, and while parish-officers and others, through mistaken policy, are thinning the number of those, who, by their rank in life, are in a manner the only customers to be expected for coarse wool, the quantity of this commodity is much increased.

Dr. Tucker next proceeds to point out the remedies of the low price of wool. The only rational scheme, he thinks, is, to endeavour to find out new markets abroad (where that is practicable), and also to create new markets at home, by increasing the population of that class of the community, which alone can promote the consumption of our coarse wools.

He thinks, that permission ought to be granted for the exportation of raw wool, under a certain duty, suppose of one penny per lb. which, with the addition of merchants profits, agency, port-charges, freight, and insurance, would amount to at least 25 per cent. on the price of the raw material, against the foreign, and in favour of the British manufacturer; an advantage sufficient to insure to the latter the staple trade of woollen cloths. The money arising from those duties, be it more or less, ought, he observes, to be applied as a bounty on the exportation of coarse woollens and worsteds of our own manufacture. Such a regulation, he adds, would, like a two-edged sword, cut both ways. The greater the quantity of raw wool thus exported, the greater would be the reward to be given for exporting our own manufactures, made out of the same kind of wool; so that the evil, so much dreaded, the exportation of the raw material, would operate as a premium in favour of the English manufacturer at a foreign market.

For defraying the charge of a bounty on the exportation of coarse woollen cloths, the dean farther proposes, that one-third of the bounty now given on exported coarse linen, and also one-third of the bounty on the exportation of corn and grain, be withdrawn, and converted into a fund for this purpose.

In respect to the method proposed by Dr. Tucker, for increasing the home-consumption of coarse woollens, by encouraging population, we shall refer our readers to the pamphlet; only observing, in general, that the plan relates to the erecting of habitations for the lower class of people, on commons and waste lands.

Answer to Sir John Dalrymple's Pamphlet upon the Exportation of Wool. By Nathaniel Forster, D. D. 8vo. 1s. Robinson.

In this pamphlet, the rev. Dr. Forster adopts the method followed by sir John Dalrymple; first, laying down a few general principles, which appear to him to be incontestible, and also applicable, in every point, to the present question; secondly, offering some reasons *against* the allowance of the exportation of wool, in any circumstances, and with whatever qualifications; and thirdly, examining the force of sir John Dalrymple's reasons, in favour of this measure; which reasons come, of course, in the form of objections, to Dr. Forster's arguments against it.

Passing over the doctor's general propositions, as matter of abstract speculation, we shall proceed to his reasons against allowing the exportation of wool.

He observes, that if the exportation of wool were allowed, the price would be immediately so much raised, as to be a severe check upon the manufacture, particularly those branches which are sent to foreign markets: that the exportation of wool will not only check, for a time, the manufactures in which it is used, but, by enabling foreigners, particularly the French, to rival, and to undersell us, will deprive us for ever of the trade. One circumstance, much in favour of the French manufacture, he

he observes, is the comparatively low price of labour; and another is their vicinity to the markets.

It had been said by sir John Dalrymple, 'that in Languedoc, are the short wools of the west and south coasts of England, and the long wools of Lincolnshire, in perfection.' Dr. Forster observes, however, that, from all the information which he has been able to procure, he is persuaded that the fact is mistaken, with respect to wools of the latter sort. As far as he can learn, there are no wools of the Lincolnshire kind in France, any more than in Spain; but, at any rate, that the quantity of this wool, whether in Languedoc, or any other part of France, must be very inconsiderable, and totally inadequate to the demand. The doctor affirms, it is a certain fact, that foreign manufacturers come to England for wool; whence the natural conclusion is, that they cannot procure a substitute for it elsewhere. To ascertain this point, is a matter of great importance; because, as sir John Dalrymple observes, 'To prohibit the exportation of wool, without being certain, that other nations can get it no where else, is a very dangerous policy.'

But the clearest view of Dr. Forster's opinion, respecting this important question, is to be had from his examination of sir John Dalrymple's reasons for allowing the exportation of wool.

The limits within which we must, at present, confine ourselves, will not admit of laying before our readers the various arguments, produced by Dr. Forster, in support of his opinion on this subject; but we cannot conclude, without observing, that his reasons appear so strong, as, if not to refute, at least, to counterbalance the arguments so plausibly advanced by sir John Dalrymple.

The Contrast; or, a Comparison between the Woollen, Linen, Cotton, and Silk Manufactures. 8vo. 1s. Buckland.

In this pamphlet, the author draws a comparison between the woollen, linen, cotton, and silk manufactures; shewing the utility of each, both in a national and commercial view. This writer, so far from approving of the exportation of wool, affirms, that, from our negligence in not stopping the French from smuggling our fine, long, combing wool, we have enabled them to manufacture woollens and stuffs, not only for their own consumption, but for export, to our great prejudice; and that this they could not have done, notwithstanding their greater cheapness of labour, had they not procured our raw materials. The remedy proposed by this writer, is only 'to wear our native wool.'

Plain Reasons addressed to the People of Great Britain against the Petition (intended) to Parliament for Leave to export Wool. 8vo. 1s. Robinson.

Before this important subject of national economy be submitted to the consideration of parliament, we are glad to find that it undergoes so strict an investigation, by gentlemen apparently so well qualified for such an enquiry. The author of this pamphlet

phlet is one of the most powerful opponents to the exportation of wool. He observes, that the farmers and other occupiers of land in the county of Lincoln, have, for some years past, paid great attention to their wool; and had their modes of improvement been directed with as much wisdom, as they have been pursued with diligence, not only the inhabitants of that county, but the nation in general, would have been benefited by them. He says, that, in too eager a pursuit of their present interest, while wool was of ready sale and at a high price, they lost sight of it in time to come, when a change taking place, the demand should be less, and the price lower: that they have uniformly endeavoured to increase the length of the wool, and the weight of the fleece, regardless of its other qualities; and though they have frequently been warned by the dealers and manufacturers, that they were making their wool unfit for the general manufactures of this country, they still persisted. He tells us, that in many parts of Lincolnshire, where five, six, or seven fleeces used to make up a todd, it will now be made up of two or three. Their sheep are grown very large, and their wool long and coarse. The author affirms, that the inconveniencies complained of, are local and temporary; and that the mode of redress, which the inhabitants of Lincolnshire seem desirous of adopting, would produce other inconveniencies, both general and permanent. He contends, that there is no general redundancy of wool in the nation: for short and fine wool, useful in making cloth, and also fine combing wool, has advanced in price for some years past; and those two sorts comprehend much the greater part of the national stock.

The author next enquires into the easiest and most natural mode of redress, and what the complainants have in their own power to do for themselves. The cause of the complaint having been gradual and progressive, he observes that the remedy must be so also. Let them, says he, feed their ewes which have the longest and coarsest fleeces, and introduce rams of a finer and shorter wool; and let them use every method which their ingenuity and their interest shall suggest, to improve the quality, rather than to increase the weight of the fleece.

This writer observes, that it is probable, the present redundancy of wool in Lincolnshire may be somewhat owing to a cause, which the farmer would not choose to mention as contributing to his loss. The rot among sheep, which used to visit them at very short intervals, has, for the last ten years, as he is credibly informed, done very little damage.

The writer of this pamphlet appears to be well acquainted with facts; and to the arguments which he advances against a general exportation of wool, he has added some remarks on those which have been adduced by sir John Dalrymple.

A Letter on the Subject of Wool, interspersed with Remarks on Cotton. By William Mugilston. 8vo. 6d. Evans, Pater-noster-row.

The writer of this Letter is a manufacturer of hosiery at Alfreton. He treats the subject in a summary, but clear manner; and considers it as an unquestionable fact, that the exportation of wool, in its raw state, must prove prejudicial to trade.

Considerations on the Tithe-Bill, for the Commutation of Tithes, now depending in Parliament. 4to. 1s. L. Davis.

The author of this tract discusses the arguments on both sides of the question, and suggests a plan, which, he thinks, may conciliate both parties.

Among other circumstances he considers the inconveniences, which a clergyman must suffer :

1. If he should be compelled to accept of land, as a commutation for tithes, and obliged to turn farmer.
2. If his lands should be let to one tenant, and, on the failure of that tenant, a year's profits should be lost to him and his family.
3. If, in a living of five or six hundred pounds a year, his lands should be occupied by several tenants, and it should be necessary to support a number of barns, and other buildings.
4. If these buildings and the fences should be left by an insolvent predecessor, in a state of dilapidation.
5. If his lands should be worn out, in the time of his predecessor, by constant tillage and bad husbandry.
6. He observes, ' that if every fifth acre could be had in exchange, which is more than is generally, perhaps ever, allowed; and that, at an average, this land, after all the expences upon it, could be let for ten shillings an acre, which is the utmost in the inclosed countries, and in the open not near so much, yet a composition for three shillings an acre, for the tithes, which is the usual, and indeed a moderate composition, will produce fifteen shillings, clear of all expences, for the five acres of land, while it continues in the farmer's hands; so that the rector's loss is five shillings in every acre that is allotted to him. If only the seventh acre be allowed him, the disadvantage is still greater: for, in order to compensate for the value of the tithes, he ought to let the land for a guinea an acre, or he must lose half of it by the exchange.'

On account of these difficulties, and some others which are mentioned in this tract, the author recommends, not a universal, compulsory, but a *permissive* act, which shall leave the parties at liberty to commute, or not, as it shall be found practicable or expedient.

Observations on a General Commutation of Tithes for Land, or a Corn-Rent. 8vo. 1s. Cadell.

This writer, having first endeavoured to answer the objections, which have been usually urged against tithes, considers the inconveniences

conveniences which may arise from a commutation of tithes for land. The principal inconveniences, which he enumerates, are these:

1. A seventh, a sixth, and, in some parishes, a fifth part of the land, would, by a commutation, fall into mortmain.
2. A new and heavy expence would be incurred of erecting a farm-house, offices, &c. and keeping them in repair; or the land must be let as an appendage to some other farm, and would, for various reasons, be subject every year to a certain degree of impoverishment.
3. A new incumbent may find the land exhausted, the fences broken down, and the buildings dilapidated; and yet, where his predecessor has died insolvent, may not be able to obtain any redress.
4. It is a known fact, he says, that in some parishes the site of the glebe lands cannot now be ascertained; in others, the quantity has been diminished; in others, the whole has been lost. This evil, he thinks, may become much greater, if a larger portion of land should be converted into glebe.—A terrier, we apprehend, would effectually secure the property of the church. He mentions some other inconveniences, arising from the collusions of farmers and landholders, which we make no doubt may be easily prevented; and then proceeds to shew, that a commutation for a corn-rent, though, in his opinion, less exceptionable than the other, is, nevertheless, liable to several weighty objections.

A Short Alarm before the Fast in 1782, and to be seriously considered after. 8vo. 1s. Dilly.

The purport of this tract is to shew the absurdity of praying for success in a war, which in itself, or at least, in the author's opinion, is unreasonable and destructive.

This writer is one of those pretended patriots, who would tamely and passively permit an infamous faction to prevail, and disgrace this period in the annals of posterity, by ingloriously resigning half the dominions of the British crown.

A Faithful Picture of the Times. Being a Fast Sermon for the Year 1782. 12mo. 2d. Bladon.

This publication is called a Fast Sermon; but we cannot suppose, that it was ever preached. The author, with all the freedom of a patriotic declaimer, with 'æs triplex circa frontem,' would never have attempted to deliver in public, what he has thrown out *anonymously*, in this two-penny pamphlet. He treats the laity, the clergy, the nobility, and the king himself, with equal freedom, under the pretended character of a faithful and conscientious minister of Christ, who disdains to flatter; telling us, 'that such ministers, such bishops, such rulers in church and state as the present, are a reproach, and must be a curse to any people;' in short, that 'this is a profligate and perishing kingdom.'

D I V I N I T Y.

Sacred History selected from the Scriptures, with Annotations and Reflections, suited to the Comprehension of young Minds. Vol. I. By Mrs. Trimmer. 12mo. 3s. sewed. Robinson.

This volume consists of select passages of Scripture, from the first chapter of Genesis, to the sixth chapter of Numbers, with annotations.

The passages are selected with judgment; and the notes—accommodated to the capacities of children.

A Method for Prayer, with Scripture Expressions proper to be used under each Head. By the late Matthew Henry, Minister of the Gospel. 12mo. 2s. Law.

A pious tract, which cannot fail of being acceptable to those, who have no objection to a little dulness and prolixity in books of devotion.

C O N T R O V E R S I A L.

Letters to the rev. John Sturges, M. A. in Answer to his Considerations on the present State of the Church Establishment. By Joshua Toulmin, M. A. 12mo. 2s. Johnson.

This writer allows Mr. Sturges the merit of being a candid and liberal defender of the church; but in some points, he thinks, his arguments are very defective. He mentions several things in the service of the church, which, he says, are all human inventions, 'gross and culpable deviations from that simplicity, which is a distinguishing characteristic of Christianity.' Here he argues on a supposition, that the church has settled her own forms and opinions. In the next letter, he attacks his opponent on a different ground, and insists, that the church of England neither did settle her own faith and forms, nor can change, correct, or improve them; and that she is, in reality, a mere creature of the state.—Mr. Sturges has insinuated, that most of the points in our controversy with the Dissenters are trifling. Our author reprobates this idea, and insists, that the controversy is no less than this:

'Whether our Lord Jesus Christ shall be regarded as sole head in his church; or any earthly potentate shall assume the powers of legislation with him?

'Whether Christ's kingdom shall remain, according to the first settlement of it, not of this world; or shall be incorporated with worldly constitutions, and become a part of the state?

'Whether the Scriptures shall be received as the only rule of faith; or the Thirty-nine Articles shall be subscribed as the criterion of truth and orthodoxy?

'Whether the religion of Christ be complete in itself; or needs the additions and inventions of men?

'Whether Christians shall judge for themselves what decency and order require: or shall be subject to impositions from others, from the magistrate or councils, under the pretences of decency and order? And,

'Whe-

• Whether Christians shall be at liberty to lay aside the corruptions which have been blended with their holy faith, and to avail themselves of further light and enquiry to restore the profession of it to its original purity and simplicity; or shall be bound down to the same prescribed articles and unvaried forms?

• These are the particulars which are debated between us: and if these be “trifling particulars,” it will not be easy to conceive what is important: for these points involve in them the honour of our religion—the authority of the Scriptures—and our allegiance to the great Founder of our faith.

This author has managed his argument in an able manner, and treated his opponent with more deference than controversial writers sometimes treat one another.

An Answer to Mr. Shaw's Inquiry into the Authenticity of the Poems ascribed to Ossian. By John Clark. 8vo. 1s. Longman.

This dispute, concerning the authenticity of the poems ascribed to Ossian, might be immediately terminated by Mr. Macpherson's laying before the public the Gaelic manuscripts of those compositions; but until that happen, the controversy may be supported, if not with truth, at least with some degree of plausibility. The more, however, that the subject is investigated, the more suspicious appear the facts, and inconclusive the arguments, which have been adduced to overthrow the authenticity of those poems.

Mr. Clark, the author of this pamphlet, is a gentleman, whose name had been treated so freely in Mr. Shaw's Inquiry, that he has now taken up the pen in vindication of his character. The numerous and striking circumstances, to which he has recourse for this purpose, are so connected with the representations of the opposite party, that, in defending his own reputation, he often recriminates on his antagonist with a severity which no provocation can justify. What relates to the general character of the author of the Inquiry, however, we shall not now recapitulate; it being sufficient to attend to the evidence respecting his veracity. With regard to this essential point, Mr. Shaw's delinquency is corroborated by a variety of testimony, independently of that of Mr. Clark. The Inquirer had asserted, that he offered to purchase, from professor Macleod, of Glasgow, at the rate of half a crown each word, any number of lines, not under six, of the original of Ossian. But in a letter, published in the present pamphlet, this assertion is positively denied by the professor.

The Inquirer had also affirmed, that the MSS. in the possession of Mr. Mackenzie, of the Temple, are the same which were deposited by Mr. Macpherson with his bookseller. But this assertion, like the former, is refuted by evidence too satisfactory to be questioned.

It deserves to be remarked, that, notwithstanding the Inquirer's arrogant declarations of his own superior knowledge of the Gaelic, some indubitable facts are mentioned, and many instances adduced;

adduced, to prove that he is extremely ignorant, both of that language, and the characters in which it is written. In support of the former part of this charge, Mr. Clark has recourse to Mr. Shaw's Analysis and Inquiry; whence is extracted a number of passages, which evince the most palpable contradiction.

When we consider by what respectable and forcible evidence, Mr. Shaw's allegations are refuted; some of them even by his own private letters to Mr. Clark, during a confidential correspondence which subsisted between them; there is, we must acknowledge, the strongest reason to conclude, that the whole of the Inquiry is a shameful attempt, suggested by disappointment, and promoted by interested views, to gratify illiberal prejudice at the expence of truth and justice.

M E D I C A L.

An Epistle to Dr. Falconer of Bath. By Philip Thicknesse. 8vo. 1s. Doddsley.

The author of this epistle, with great zeal, as well as vivacity, vindicates the Bath waters from a supposed insinuation, expressed by Dr. Falconer, of their being impregnated with a small portion of lead.—The fact upon which Dr. Falconer founded his idea, is related by himself as follows. In the year 1770, the stone which covers the lead cistern in the middle of the King's bath, and which lies about two foot and a half from the ground, was taken up, in order to clear the cistern of sand. By accident, a piece of the upper part of the cistern was broken off, and brought into the Coffee-house in the Grove, where it was examined by Dr. Falconer and several other persons; who all agreed, that, from some furrows or irregularities, upon its internal surface, it appeared to have been acted on by the water. It is proper to observe, that the fact here alleged is not only controverted by Mr. Thicknesse, but is not urged even by Dr. Falconer, with any degree of certainty sufficient to authorize the idea of an injurious impregnation in the Bath waters.—Those celebrated waters have been repeatedly analyzed by gentlemen well acquainted with chemistry; who never, in any of their experiments discovered even the smallest particle of lead. Nay, the furrowed appearance of the surface of the cistern affords a strong argument against the probability of erosion; which, had it taken place, we may conclude, would have extended in a superficial expanse, and not in a furrowed direction. From the whole, there is every reason for acquitting the Bath waters of any saturnine principle; but we cannot so readily acquit Dr. Falconer, and the company at the Coffee-house in the Grove, of precipitation in conjecture, or Mr. Thicknesse, of the personal acrimony and sarcastic vehemence, with which he has treated his medical opponent; especially concerning a point, which might have been determined by chemical experiment alone.

A Medical and Philosophical Essay on the Theory of the Gout. 8vo.
1s. Elmsly.

As the hypothesis advanced by this author, is founded upon principles which are still the subject of dispute, it would be improper for us to give any opinion of his theory; and we must therefore defer the determination, until at least the existence of phlogiston be ascertained.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Beauties of Johnson; consisting of Maxims and Observations, Moral, Critical, and Miscellaneous, accurately extracted from the Works of Dr. Samuel Johnson. Part I. 12mo. 2s. Part II. 2s. 6d. sewed. Kearsly.

The Beauties of Sterne: including all his pathetic Tales, and most distinguished Observations on Life. Selected for the Heart of Sensibility. 12mo. 2s. 6d. sewed. Ridley.

It was observed by Callimachus*, 'that a great book is a great evil.' This remark perfectly coincides with the taste and disposition of a modern reader, who seldom admits a folio, or a quarto into his collection, unless for ornament, to give his book-case a more pompous appearance, and the owner the reputation of superior learning.

There are purchasers, we confess, of quartos and folios; but the greatest part of these are people who never read, the collectors of curious books, and the proprietors of elegant libraries, who keep their magnificent volumes in excellent preservation, for the use of posterity.

In France, the beau philosopher has his superb collection of all the *Pensées Ingénieuses*, and the *Bons Mots* of his learned countrymen; he has his *Bagatelles Morales*, his *Bouquet Historique*, his *Amusemens Philosophiques*, and, on every subject, and in every science, his *Dictionnaire Portatif*, where he may rove from topic to topic, as the bee does from the blue-bottle to the daisy, and collect a tincture of knowledge under every letter of the alphabet.

Englishmen, we are sorry to observe, seem to be degenerating into this literary frivolism. The generality of readers, male and female, can scarcely bear the fatigue attending the perusal of any thing, but Shandean volumes, plays, novels, and other books of entertainment. The only patrons of literature; the booksellers, in order to encourage the rising generation in the pursuits of learning and wisdom, have published a variety of compilations, containing all the wit and spirit of our eminent authors in epitome: the *Beauties of Homer*, *Shakspeare*, *Addison*, and *Johnson*; the *Moral Sentiments of Richardson and Blair*, and the *Quintessence of Sensibility*, extracted from the writings of *Sterne*.

* Callim. apud Athenæum, lib. iii.

On this plan we make no doubt but that Newbery's Lilliputian volumes will be elegantly reprinted, for 'children of a larger growth.'

The scheme is ingenious. It wonderfully facilitates the acquisition of the sciences; it refutes the assertion of those cynical writers, who tell us, that the avenues to the temple of wisdom are tedious, steep, and intricate; and, above all, it is agreeable to the doctrine of our modern philosophers †, who assert, that 'all the solid matter in the solar system may be contained in a nutshell.'

A Letter to Robert Macqucen, Lord Braxfield, on his Promotion to be one of the Judges of the High Court of Justiciary. 8vo. 11s. Edinburgh.

The author of this Letter appears to be a Scottish barrister. He considers the advancement of lord Braxfield, to be one of the judges of the court of justiciary in Scotland, as a circumstance that justifies him for submitting to the judgment of the public a few considerations upon the duty of the important office with which his lordship is entrusted. After complimenting lord Braxfield upon his belief of the great doctrines of the Christian religion, and after reprobating the want of dignity, as a most dangerous defect in a criminal judge, he observes, that in Scotland the court of justiciary is improperly anxious to establish the guilt of a prisoner; that the oath of a witness swearing *against* a prisoner is received by the judges with greater credibility than when swearing *for* him; and that, in place of an indictment by a grand jury, a culprit in that country is brought to trial upon the sole judgment of the lord advocate, the solicitor-general, or more frequently, the opinion of one of the gentlemen to whom the lord advocate's official power, in this respect, is delegated. He affirms, that justiciary lords of Scotland have assumed a power over jurymen, which is not warranted by the laws and the constitution; and, in their circuits, he accuses them of behaving with a penuriousness that is alike inconsistent with their appointments and their dignity. His charges, for what we know, may be just; and in that case they call for attention. His views, indeed, seem to be disinterested; but little can be said of the literary ability of his Letter. It is written without animation or elegance; and if it is meant to be satirical, the strokes are too gentle, and the sarcasm too much covered, to give offence.

A short Historical Narrative of the Rise and rapid Advancement of the Mahrattah State. 8vo. 2s. Cadell.

This Narrative, with which the public is favoured by Mr. Kerr, is the substance of an account which he received from a Mahometan native of Hindostan, whom he retained in pay, as a teacher of the Persian language. The narrative has the appear-

ance of being authentic, and is written by Mr. Kerr with great perspicuity.

The Scriptural Preservative of Women from Ruin by Seduction and Prostitution, as revealed in the Divine Law. 8vo. 1s. Hogg.

This writer is one of those enthusiastic and sanguinary reformers, who conceive, that

—— the world will never thrive,
Till all adulterers are flea'd alive.

He has therefore published this pamphlet, to shew the legislature the deficiency of our penal laws; to prove, that all whoremongers, whores, adulterers, and adulteresses, should be put to death; and that this scheme is perfectly agreeable to the divine law, and would be attended with infinite advantages to the community.

A Practical Grammar of the French Language. By N. Wanslebroucht. Second Edition. 12mo. 3s. Johnson.

The errors in the former edition † are corrected in the present; and several improvements are made in different parts of it. But particularly, the irregular verbs, which before were printed in a large folding-sheet, are now ranged in alphabetical order in the body of the book, where they are much more conveniently placed.

London: a Satire. 8vo. 1s. Stockdale.

This satire, being of the descriptive kind, admits not of that moral expostulation which is calculated to reform, by means either of invective or ridicule. It affords a fantastic picture of depravity, folly, and absurdity, in the extreme; but amidst the distortion of many of the objects and the exaggeration of all, we may recognize some striking features, the representation of which entitles the author to the praise of having executed the caricatura with a certain degree of justness, as well as of ingenuity.

Biographia Evangelica: or, an historical Account of the Lives and Deaths of the most eminent and Evangelical Authors and Preachers, both British and Foreign, in the several Denominations of Protestants. Vol. II. By the Rev. Erasmus Middleton. 8vo. 6s. 6d. Hogg.

We gave a general account of the plan and execution of this work in our Review for Feb. 1780, soon after the first volume was published. On the second, which is now before us, there seems to be no occasion for any farther remarks. We shall therefore only refer our readers to the article above mentioned.

This volume contains sixty-five Lives.

† See Crit. Rev. for September, 1780.

